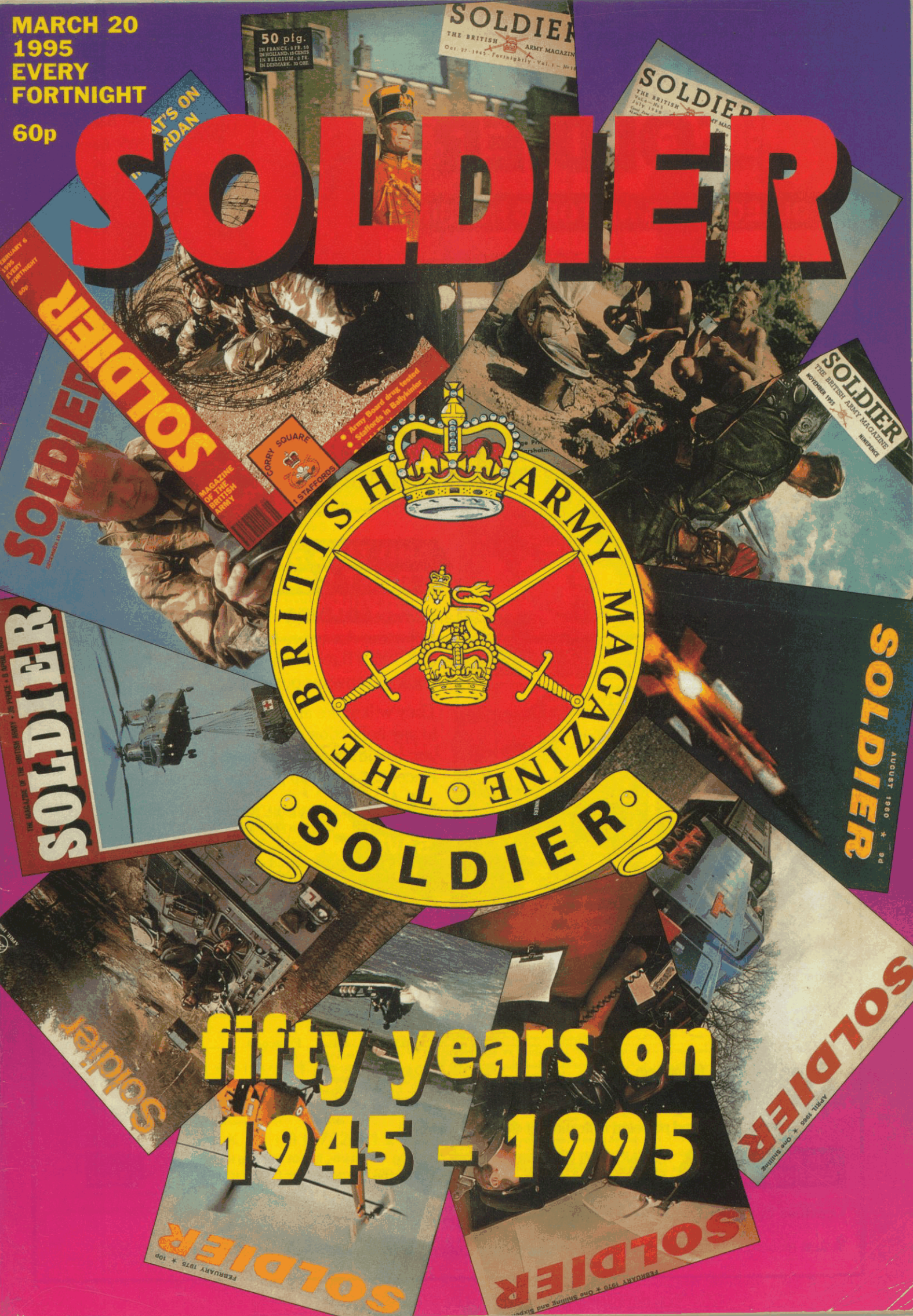


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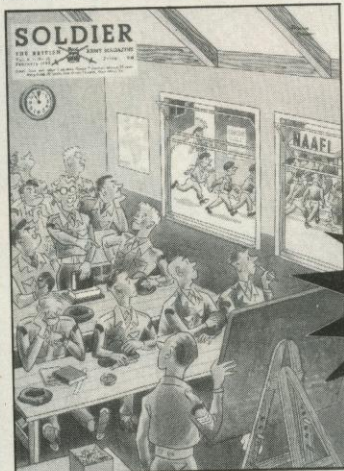


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**Vol 51/6**

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## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Remember Ginger Higgins, 1945? . . . said he'd eat his boots  
if *Soldier* lasted two years . . . bet he doesn't show up!

● 50th anniversary section – Pages 19 - 46

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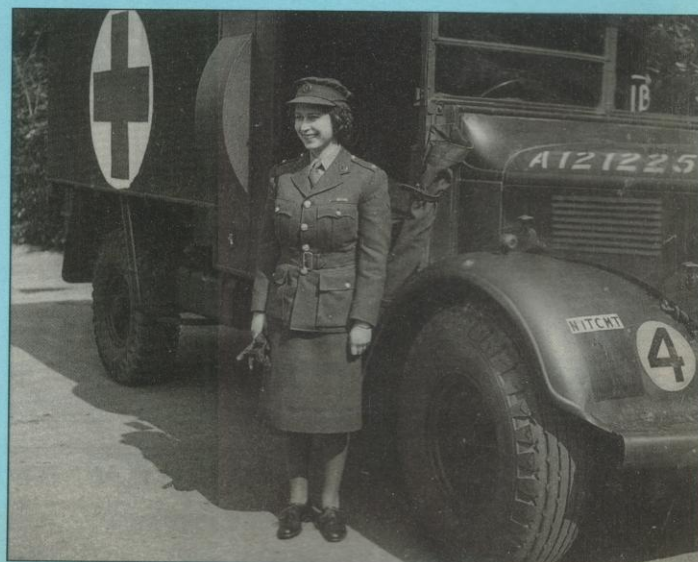
# PRINCESS IN DENIM



WHEN the King and Queen visited No 1 Army Motor Training Transport Centre ATS in the South of England in the spring of 1945, one of the denim-clad girls they saw with her head under the bonnet of a truck was 18-year-old Second Subaltern Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, the Heir to the Throne. The Queen was told by the Comman-

dant: "The Princess is an excellent and considerate driver." Princess Elizabeth, who took the course as part of her training to be an ATS officer, passed out as a fully qualified and competent driver.

These photographs, the first Royal pictures to appear in *Soldier*, were published in the fifth issue of the magazine.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

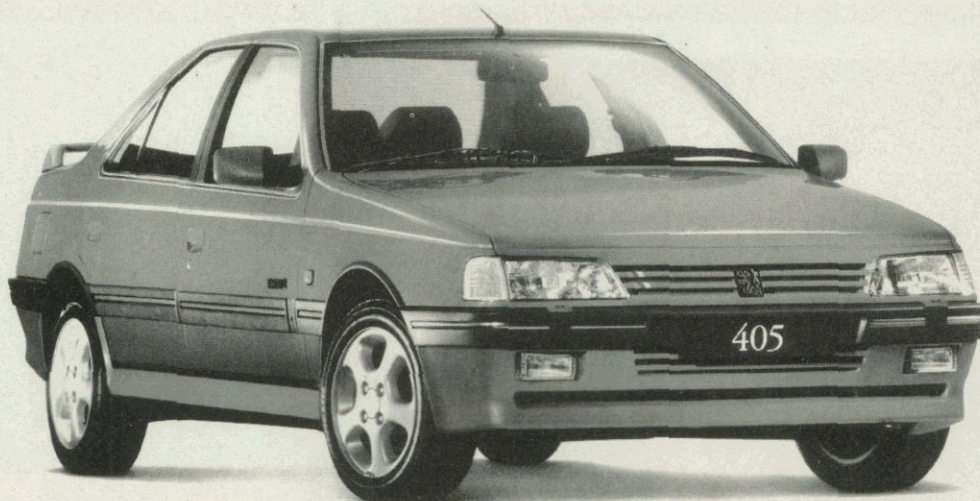
6th February, 1995.

In March 1945, as the Second World War was drawing to its close, Field Marshal Montgomery launched *Soldier* magazine for the men and women of the British Liberation Army in Europe. It soon became the magazine for the British Army as a whole, and for half a century has reported the nation's military achievements in peace and war to a worldwide readership of soldiers and civilians.

I have long been a regular reader of *Soldier*, and have always found it both interesting and informative. It gives me great pleasure, in this 50th Anniversary edition, to send my congratulations to the many contributors to *Soldier*, past and present, and my good wishes to all its loyal readers.

ELIZABETH R





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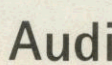
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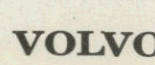
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## Army Museum tells story of SOLDIER

THIS bumper issue of *Soldier* marks the 50th birthday of the magazine – complete with messages from the Queen and the Secretary of State for Defence.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary, a free exhibition on the history of *Soldier* will open at the National Army Museum, Chelsea on March 15 and last throughout the summer.

We are grateful to a number of organisa-

tions which have given generous support to the exhibition. They include Ilford; Arrow Press; Philtone; and Matrix.

We also wish to thank the following for their assistance: Army Department Design Consultants, Aldershot; CS Photography; National Army Museum; Army School of Catering, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot; Quartermaster's Dept, Buller Barracks, Aldershot; BFBS and Alan Grace; SSVc;

Imperial War Museum; former members of *Soldier* staff; and Careers and Recruiting Liaison (South), Aldershot.

Meanwhile, *Soldier* has commissioned a limited reprint of its historic first edition, plus a book of postcards depicting some of the finest front cover designs from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

Details of how to obtain these two collector's items are on Page 2.

## Loggies set for Angola mission

BRITISH support troops are expected to deploy to Angola next month on Operation Chantress.

As part of a United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVM) they would monitor the cease-fire between forces of the the Popular Liberation Front of Angola (MPLA) and the National Front for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA).

The British formation would be based on 9 Supply Regiment RLC from Hurlingham. Details, however, will not be confirmed until a reconnaissance by 25 key personnel, who flew out on February 28, has been completed.

The force is expected to include elements from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, 27 Regt RLC, 29 Regt RLC, 20 Fd Sqn RE, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), 30 Sig Regt and 8 Fd Wksp, with a Welsh Guards detachment for local defence.

"The UK has been asked to provide a self-supporting formation of 600 for three months from April," said Lt Col Harry



Checking one of their laundry skids destined for Angola are members of 91 Supply Squadron's Bath and Laundry Troop, who provide an important element in the health and morale of soldiers on deployment

O'Hare, CO 9 Supply Regt and commander of the force.

The regiment was formed two years ago for logistic force projection with just this kind of deployment in mind. Its task is expected to be to provide logistic infrastructure for six or seven battalions from other countries. Air resupply and port operations would form a major part of the operation.

Once the recce has been completed, a training programme will begin. Individual

training is already going on at earmarked units.

Troops can expect to carry out the kind of work they have done in Bosnia, under conditions experienced in Rwanda. Some soldiers have been on both these operations.

If the recce proves the operation feasible, the force would provide logistic support for the UN force and the British contingent by establishing a base at the port of Lobito and detachments elsewhere, including

Luanda, the capital. A primary task for the sappers will be to provide clean water for UN troops.

"But the main problem will be mines, up to 20 million of them," said Maj Chris Rose, OC 20 Fd Sqn.

He hopes to take an EOD sub unit to identify mines and clear areas which affect UN troops.

This will be the third UNAVM deployment. Hostilities officially ended in November, but it was not until February that fighting quietened sufficiently for the UN to consider sending in soldiers without a significant danger of them being caught in crossfire.

There has been fighting since 1961 and banditry is a more serious problem than in Bosnia, but the force does not expect to be targeted as it collects weapons and establishes conditions for peace and subsequent elections.

## Gurkha sappers rebuild drug unit

GURKHA sappers based in Hong Kong have extended and refurbished a drug rehabilitation unit on a remote island in Sai Kun country park.

In one of the biggest community relations projects to be undertaken by Hong Kong Garrison this year, members of C Troop, 67 Gurkha Indepen-

dent Field Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, built two accommodation blocks for Operation Dawn, an international charity.

For two weeks, Wessex helicopters of No 28 (AC) Squadron based at RAF Sek Kong made up to 15 daily shuttles to fly in underslung

loads of construction materials and rations.

Maj Alistair Sheppard, OC 67 Gurkha Ind Fd Sqn, said: "This is exactly the type of work the Gurkhas do as part of their training. What we are doing at Town Island is what we are expected to do in a military situation."



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# No more cuts in Scottish regiments

NO further merging of Scottish regiments is planned, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the Commons during the Army debate on February 23.

Paying tribute to the support given to British troops serving with the United Nations in former Yugoslavia, he said: "The logistics operation in Bosnia has been a brilliant success and the Royal Logistic Corps deserves the greatest praise and credit."

He also singled out the Royal Signals and REME.

Referring to a *Sunday Express* article on the future of the Infantry (see Page 11), Mr Soames said the suggestion that the regimental system was under threat

was nonsense. "It is quite untrue," he told Opposition defence spokesman Dr John Reid.

Mr Robert Key said he had learned from MoD that it had 109,279 vehicles and 246,926 personnel, a ratio which raised serious issues about procurement of vehicles and the way in which they were maintained, registered and used.

He said the registration of military vehicles was arcane and that it might be time for it to be amalgamated with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and linked



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

into the police national computer.

Mr Key also raised the question of civil rights of Service communities threatened by civilian activities. He said the Department of

Transport was proposing to build a dual carriageway within 100m of married quarters at Larkhill.

"I hope very much that it will not be a case of 'Oh, they are only soldiers' married quarters, so we need not pay attention to their concerns' in circumstances where, I suggest, a road simply would not be considered if it were to affect one of the villages that

we have the honour to represent."

Procurement Minister Roger Freeman confirmed that deliveries of AS90 would be completed this year and that testing of the Rapier missile system would continue at Benbecula.

• • •

A war pension award has been made in one case for a condition related to immunisation programmes carried out on Service personnel during the Gulf War, Social Security Junior Minister James Arbuthnot said in a written answer on February 24.

In another written answer Mr Soames said an estimated 7,500 Army families would return from Germany this year.

## Quality service is aim of new housing body

THE DEFENCE Housing Executive (DHE) which comes into being on April 1 will bring under single management the three separate Service housing organisations.

The new body, announced by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in November, has been created to provide families "with a quality service in line with the best practice in other housing management organisations".

All tasks involved in the management, maintenance and upgrading of Service families' accommodation will be brought together under one roof.

This will include responsibility for allocating accommodation, day-to-day management, managing irregular occupants, planning and commissioning upgrades, dealing with surplus properties and maintaining the condition of married quarters.

Line management control of the executive will pass from



Chief Royal Engineer Gen Sir John Stibbon cuts the tape to mark the official opening of the Cloutman Building at Gibraltar Barracks, Hawley, Surrey. Named after Maj Brett McKay Cloutman, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1919, it is the first of several new building

projects within the barracks to be completed. Pictured with Gen Stibbon is the Engineer-in-Chief, Maj Gen John Drewienkiewicz.

They are flanked by Mus Noel Trimble and LCpl Colin Anderson from the Band of The Corps of Royal Engineers.

headquarters to seven regional controllers and 25 area managers. Regional staff have already been appointed and interviews for area managers have been completed.

To allow continuity of service, all appointees are existing experienced staff.

Little change will be seen on April 1.

It has been recognised that the DHE could not assume immediate responsibility for ongoing activities such as major development works and the provision of carpets and

curtains. These services will continue as at present until the new executive has had a chance to review the situation.

A number of measures will be implemented to replace existing single-Service procedures, including the licence to occupy MQs, currently different for each of the three Services.

Computer systems to streamline the management of MQs are being sought and a contract is expected to be placed by the end of this month.

## New move to raise shooting standards

A NEW system of shooting training comes into effect on April 1 to improve what a recent Adjutant General called the "abysmal" standard of Army marksmanship.

Results in all-Arms annual weapons tests before the Gulf War were not as high as they should have been, but now, for the first time, a new training pamphlet lays down operational marksmanship standards.

The new pamphlet - *Army Operational Shooting* - is the result of an Army shooting policy paper accepted by the Executive Committee of the Army Board in July 1993. The Director of Infantry was then tasked with reviewing all small arms shooting standards and conduct of shooting practices.

The pamphlet recognises the different requirements of the Infantry compared with other Arms and Services and emphasises the priority of operational shooting.

Much greater emphasis is laid on field firing, particularly for the Infantry, but all Arms will be assessed at the fire-team level.

Firing from trenches or in the prone position is reduced and greater emphasis is laid on the full spectrum of firing positions.

Picture: Mike Weston



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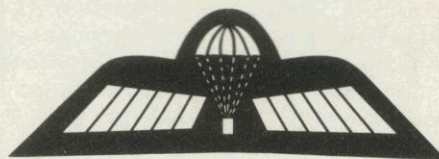
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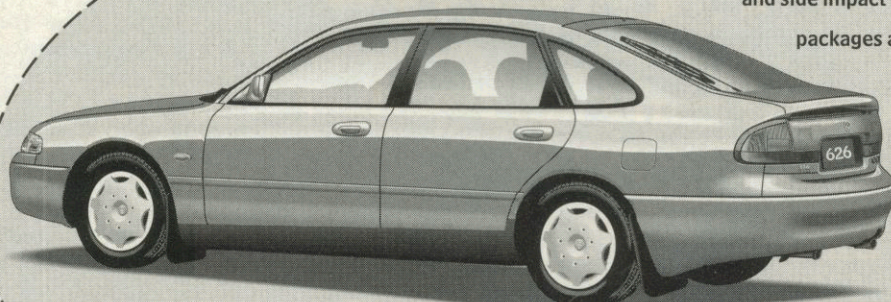
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## Gruelling test for East Anglia's Terriers

THREE hundred Territorial Army soldiers drawn from units across East Anglia took part in a gruelling military skills competition at the Stanford Military Training Area

from March 10-12. Fifteen 20-man teams were competing for the Veal Trophy.

They were tested in military skills, which included shooting, map-reading, field craft,

assault course and navigation.

"We were looking for leadership, initiative, teamwork and stamina in the winners," said Brig Tony Calder, Commander of 54 (East Anglia)

Brigade, who presented the trophy. The trophy is named in memory of Maj Mike Veal, a former commanding officer of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

## Fourth title for Army's top phot

COL Roger Thompson is the Army's photographer of the year – for the fourth time.

His 1994 portfolio earned him the top accolade, and the prize for the image of the year, a Challenger 1.

Col Thompson (right), who is secretary of the Army Rugby Union, has a remarkable record in the competition. He won it outright in 1988, 1989 and 1991, and took the honours for the best amateur photographer and the *Soldier*-sponsored "own choice" category in 1993.



The Army title was his second major trophy of 1994. He also won the Martini Royal international competition for pictures of the Royal Family.

*Soldier* writer Laurie Mantion, a captain in 6/7 PWRR, improved on his 1993 runner-up position by becoming TA photographer of the year for 1994. He also won the monochrome photograph category. Winner of the *Soldier* prize was Maj Peter Griffiths LI(V), a TAPIO working in the UKLF Media Production Centre.

The best colour photograph was taken by WO2 Kevin Capon RLC, chief photographer in the Public Information office at HQ UKLF.

Other main winners included LCpl Patrick Quigley (military ops or training), Capt Dave Chrystal (best amateur photographer), Maj Martin Figura (aspect of Service family life), and WO2 Dougie Young (Army sport or adventurous training).

A feature on the competition will appear in *Soldier* following the awards ceremony at the beginning of April.

## Soldiers rescued officer

TWO part-time soldiers who stood in freezing water for several hours to rescue an officer on exercise have been awarded commendations for bravery.

Cpl Anthony Benton and Pte David Lack of the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, received the awards from Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces.

They were on a night exercise last October when their patrol commander, 2nd Lt Alex Bond, fell down a cliff.

"It was a terrible night. The driving wind and rain made it almost impossible to see," Cpl Benton recalled. "We were on patrol when I heard the commander scream. I realised



what had happened and climbed down the cliff with another of the lads to help him."

Lt Bond was floating unconscious in a river when Cpl Benton and Pte Lack reached him. Using first aid techniques they had been taught in the Territorial Army, they man-

aged to keep him alive until the arrival of a helicopter summoned by Cpl Benton.

Both men had to remain in freezing water at the bottom of the cliff until Lt Bond was successfully evacuated.

● Picture shows Cpl Benton receiving his commendation from Gen Wilsey.

## Regiments 'face axe'

DOZENS of British regiments could disappear under a radical plan to form a single 25,000-strong Corps of Infantry within a decade. Project BA2000 will create a "new army" for the 21st century. – *Sunday Express*.

□ British commanders in Bosnia-Herzegovina have taken part in a computer-based NATO exercise to simulate the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops. – *Times*.

□ Pte Lee Clegg, the paratrooper serving a life sentence for shooting dead a joy rider in Belfast, has received formal notice that he is to be dishonourably discharged from the Army. Legal advisers are considering an appeal to the Army Board. – *Daily Mail*. More than 2 million letters of support for Pte Clegg have been received. – *Sun*.

□ The MoD has appealed against a court order obliging it to disclose documents relating to its policy of discharging pregnant Servicewomen. – *Daily Telegraph*.

□ Phoenix, the pilotless surveillance aircraft, could be aban-



doned ten years and £264 million after the project began. It sustains damage when it lands too often and could be scrapped in favour of a foreign alternative. – *Times*.

□ Two hundred ex-soldiers are to meet in Trafalgar Square ten years after having the reunion date and venue tattooed on their shoulders. All were regulars in the Pigs Bar at Herford near Hanover. – *Sun*.

□ The MoD is to fight an attempt to overturn long-held rules banning homosexuals from Britain's Armed Forces. A former Royal Navy sailor has been granted the

legal right to challenge restrictions on gay Servicemen and women. – *Mail on Sunday*.

□ Figures released on February 24 reveal the MoD has underspent by £600m its allocated budget of £22.7 billion for this financial year. – *Financial Times*.

□ Egyptian soldiers have found a Second World War British Army lorry in the middle of the desert, 1,200 miles south of El Alamein. The vehicle was in perfect working order and ammunition on board was intact. – *Daily Telegraph*.

□ A 40,000-signature petition to save Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot was delivered to 10 Downing Street. – *Aldershot News*.

□ Comedian Jim Davidson is paying for Mrs Barbara Edwards, mother of the late LCpl Wayne Edwards RWF, to make a pilgrimage to Gornji Vakuf in former Yugoslavia. LCpl Edwards, who was attached to 1 Cheshire, was killed in crossfire in the town in January 1993 while escorting an ambulance. – *Daily Mirror*.



# RGBW are in a class of their own



Many hands make light work of repainting a classroom



Maj Farren Drury (seated centre, rear) with appreciative children at Stipo Derek school. The smiling soldier to his right is Maj David Fassallo RAMC

WHILE the greater part of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (BRIT-BAT 2) has spent its Operation Grapple tour stationed inside the Gorazde pocket, other elements of the battalion have been busy elsewhere.

Commanded by Maj Farren Drury, C Company, 1 RGBW has been based in a disused shoe factory at Bugojno. When the battalion arrived in the area, close to the confrontation line between the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) and the Muslim BiH, it was comparatively quiet.

That situation changed rapidly when more than 7,000 Muslim reinforcements arrived in the town and the BiH launched an offensive against Kupres, then held by the BSA.

The Serbs retaliated with heavy artillery against Bugojno.

Operation Thin – the evacuation of all but essential personnel – was implemented twice as shells rained down on the town. On both occasions, more than half the company was withdrawn to Gornji Vakuf. Town patrols were suspended for two months.

"We were fortunate nothing landed in our camp, although some shells exploded only 25 metres away, causing damage and giving us a fright," said Maj Drury.

"We spent a lot of time in bomb shelters. On one occasion, four large surface-to-air missiles, each packed with high explosive and ball bearings, were fired at Bugojno.

"Soldiers at one of our observation posts on a hill overlooking the town saw them launched and were able to count them in. One broke up just over our base . . . it smashed all the windows and made everyone run for cover."

As the situation calmed, soldiers from 1 RGBW were able to devote more time to improving living conditions in the town.

Troops were particularly affected by the plight of the young, especially after patrols rushed two young children hit by shellfire back to base to receive treatment from a British Army surgical team then co-located with 1 RGBW. Both died despite the best efforts of the medics.

Three primary schools, one of which had been used as a barracks, were restored by 1 RGBW. Bunkers protected the entrances and a defensive system of trenches had been cut through sports fields and playground.

Lt Simon Stilwell said the walls were covered with graffiti and human excrement fouled every classroom.

Troops wore protective suits and used special disinfectant to clean up the mess.

"It took nearly a month to



WO2 (TQMS) Brian Stanley polishes off another batch of paperwork at Kiseljak

clear away the entrance bunker. We soon realised it would take us for ever to finish the job, so we organised a Challenge Anneka-style day and more than 100 UN personnel, including sailors from HMS *Invincible*, turned up. All the windows were glazed and four classrooms painted in a day," said Lt Stilwell.

The US aid agency AICF supplied plaster, cement, paint and clear plastic window panes.

The Brandywine Challenge sparked off a number of school projects throughout central Bosnia.

C Company was supported by children in British schools, many of which provide supplies and are twinned with the three schools restored by 1 RGBW.

Sailors arranged for desks and chairs to be carried by a Royal Fleet Auxiliary supply ship bound for Split. Computers and chemistry equipment are being sent from London and Edinburgh, and a Roman Catholic priest in Liverpool arranged a collection of school exercise books, pens and pencils.

The battalion's Echelon is based at Kiseljak in a former hotel. It acts as an administrative base for the remainder of the battalion in Gorazde. The adjutant, the quartermaster and the regimental administra-

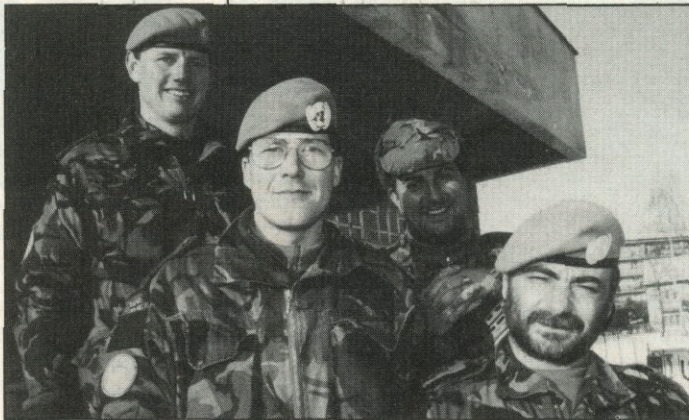
tion officer are all based there.

"We demand all the equipment and spares required by the Gorazde Force," said quartermaster Maj Mike Godwin. "It arrives here in containers and is carefully manifested before being carried by convoys into Gorazde."

"Our biggest problem is fuel. Our two companies need 40,000 litres each week to operate vehicles, generators and field kitchens. The Bosnian Serbs allow only 10,000 in. Sometimes they use bayonets to slash open boxes of stores while checking our loads."



Soldiers used plastic sheeting to make shattered windows draughtproof



Soldiers and sailors joined forces to help restore schools at Bugojno. From left to right are Lt Simon Stilwell, LCpl Alan Pocock and Petty Officers Dave Cox and Graham Forrest

Valuable equipment, including more than 70 Dewliner cold weather tank suits worth £2,000, has been "liberated" during checks. It is not unusual for soldiers to lose personal kit such as cameras and transistor radios during these searches.

But troops have come up with their own solution to the problem. When forced to give up items at Serb checkpoints, some smash their cameras or radios before handing them over.

Conditions in Gorazde are said to be primitive. The only

toilets are pits on the edge of camp. A shortage of fuel for generators means accommodation blocks are freezing.

The force has been so short of fuel at times that food has been cooked over open fires.

WO2 Stephen Traveller is one of seven RGBW soldiers based at Sarajevo assisting the movement of stores through BSA checkpoints.

He and his men submit bids for vehicle movements to the BSA in Pale 48 hours before convoys are set to roll.

"Sometimes the Serbs impose restrictions on what stores can be taken to Gorazde. Occasionally, there are problems and we have to act as troubleshooters. We liaise with checkpoints through which convoys will pass and monitor their movement along the route," he said.

As *Soldier* went to press, 1 RGBW was in the process of handing over its responsibilities in Gorazde, Bugojno and Kiseljak to 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.





British soldiers in Bosnia have been working in extreme cold

## In the town of the wind

"IT'S very cold here, especially when the wind blows," says Cpl Stuart Davies, foreman of the engineering workshops in Tomislavgrad, writes Susan Coulthard.

"There are no trees, just miles of frozen wasteland. Tomislavgrad means 'town of the wind' and, if you ask me, it's aptly named."

Back in Germany, Cpl Davies is based in Hameln's REME Workshops.

He and 19 other British engineers are based in 64 Engineer Squadron's workshops where they have been working a six-day week in some of the worst winter weather experienced in former Yugoslavia.

Their job is vital: to repair and maintain the heavy plant equipment used to keep open the main routes into central Bosnia. When they are not doing that, they turn their hands to clearing snow or rebuilding fragile road surfaces.

Officer commanding the workshop is Capt Helena Bacon.

Everyone agrees that the weather is the worst trial faced by the soldiers.

"We've got two coolant bottles positioned outside the guardroom," explained Cpl Davies. "One is set to freeze at minus ten degrees, the other at minus 27. When they are both frozen, we

know we are in trouble . . .

"When the temperature drops that low we start up all the engines on site and keep them running over, otherwise they would freeze up and crack the cylinder blocks."

"And the next thing we do is get back inside, quickly."

LCpl Stuart Handley, a vehicle mechanic, said: "We

saw a civilian car stuck in ice outside the gates. Suddenly the wind started blowing and in less than ten minutes the vehicle had disappeared completely. There was no sign of it at all."

Despite the intense cold, he is quick to remember the good moments, such as when, in treacherous conditions, he recovered a bus teetering over the edge of a mountain road.

The people in the bus prayed for the soldiers as they were rescued.

Capt Bacon says of her mixed REME/RE team: "There is exceptional talent here. Each man pushes himself to the limit, and their enthusiasm is incredible."

"Learning curves get very steep here, especially as many of them are working on vehicles they have never seen before."

"They leave here after six months more knowledgeable and confident than six years of training would have achieved."



Cpl Stuart Davies (left) and LCpl Stuart Handley



Kgn Eddy Brown, a former Scots Guardsman, and LSgt Robert Owen WG

# Terriers take over way down South



Support from the Welsh Guards is provided by Capt Harry Lloyd, CSgt Adrian Davis and Drill Sgt Peter Evans

A TERRITORIAL Army company has for the first time taken over a Regular Army operational task by deploying to the Falkland Islands.

The composite company of 220 troops has 22 different capbadges and is supported by a handful of Welsh Guardsmen for administration. It will have sole responsibility for the military ground defence of the islands.

Most of the soldiers are drawn from the Army's Wales and Western District, which stretches from Carlisle to Cardiff, but a platoon from The London Regiment and soldiers from eastern England and the Highlands are included.

The company is commanded by Maj Adrian Walton, 2iC of the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (V). A range officer at Swynnerton, he said that having smaller groups of soldiers proved

easier for unit cohesion than three or four large groups.

"A lot of the guys have given up their work for this, which is an operation of a lifetime for them," he said.

They were determined to make the experiment work following the successful deployment of a platoon from the Royal Irish Rangers last year as part of an experiment to give Britain's part-time

soldiers a greater role as a general reserve to the Army.

The volunteers provided four rifle platoons and a support weapons platoon, easing the burden on Regular troops who have so many operational commitments they find it difficult to find time to train, said Maj Walton.

"Providing this group would have taken two companies from a Regular battalion, which would have made it very difficult for that battalion to

## Warming gesture

MOST soldiers bring penguins – of the cuddly toy variety – back from the Falkland Islands: volunteers from the London Regiment are taking one there, thanks to 2nd Lt Andrea Heron.

It will be winter while they are on the islands, and to warm them up, 2nd Lt Heron – a distribution analyst at Harrods – arranged for them to be presented with a woolly penguin as a mascot.

Andrea, who will lead a women's team in the rugged Courage Trophy at the end of March, spent two years with the Officer Training Corps at Queen's University, Belfast before joining the Londons as assistant adjutant.

carry out any other tasks."

Helping the TA prepare for the Falklands deployment was a clutch of Welsh Guardsmen, three of whom are accompanying the company south to provide administrative support during the whole four-month deployment.

"It is an enormous administrative task to organise the company so we have effectively become a fifth company of the Welsh Guards for administrative purposes," said Capt Harry Lloyd, who recently returned from training the Mozambique Army.

Although the tour is for four months, preparations have extended the volunteers' service to six months. Training included a week on Staffordshire's moorlands to confirm basic revision and ensure the correct standards in signals and first aid.

Another two weeks at Swynnerton concentrated on basic section level skills and support platoon work, and a final two weeks at Sennybridge in Wales included a five-day field firing package.

Taking the part of the TA's normal permanent staff instructors were four lance sergeants. "If anything was lacking within the TA experience or training we slotted in and took that particular lesson or gave advice," said Capt Lloyd.

Fitness, so that they would be able to patrol, was an essential first requirement. Difficult navigational circumstances on featureless moors meant that map-reading was also essential, as were communications skills, first aid and weapon training.

The Falklands are one of the best places for an infantryman

Volunteers from 4 Kings Own Border, 3 Cheshire, 5/8 Kings, RRF and RA pull together in one section

to train, said Capt Lloyd. A rotation of tasks would cover patrolling, guards and duties, training, and firing at the unrivalled facilities on Onion range.

Opportunities for battlefield tours and a wide range of adventurous training were available, with particularly well-informed guides.

Drill Sergeant Peter Evans of the Welsh Guards was a section commander on the RFA Sir Galahad when it was hit, and CSgt Adrian Davis also survived the attack.

Drill Sgt Evans will lay a wreath and visit the mother of Paul Green, one of the guardsmen who died in the disaster. She lived near him in North

TA deploys to the Falkland Islands



Wales but moved to the Falklands after the tragedy and lives there with her two daughters and one son. They write to each other every Christmas.

Liverpudlian Kgn Eddy Brown took part in the Scots Guards' attack on Tumbledown as part of the Left Flank company, which took the brunt of the casualties once the Argentinians recovered from a brilliant deception plan which allowed G Company to reach its first objective with little trouble.

"I have never been back since and want to lay a wreath on Tumbledown on June 14," he said. "I lost a couple of mates there and hope I may bury a ghost."



# Water, water everywhere . . . and every drop fit to drink

OPERATING a water purification plant in pouring rain in the middle of the Welsh mountains should have been good training for sappers of 9 Parachute Field Squadron – except that most of them had done this for real in equatorial Rwanda five months before.

The sappers were taking part in the first deployment of 36 Engineer Regiment as a whole since October 1993. Operational commitments in Bosnia had until then had priority, but the combat engineering exercise gave an opportunity for the squadron to shake out and prepare for the 3 (UK) Divisional engineering concentration, Exercise Iron Holdfast, this summer.

Providing clean water was one of the primary tasks of the sappers in Rwanda, said Maj Iain James, Sqn OC. The plant could produce up to 100,000 litres a day, vital for the health of the British troops in theatre, and an enormous bonus for doctors treating intestinal illnesses often caused by contaminated water.

Only one troop of the squadron was at Sennybridge, as the second was in Kenya and half of the third in Cyprus.

The exercise was in four phases. Deploying a week before the exercise proper was

61 Field Support Squadron, commanded by Maj Leslie Wastie. It unloaded 2,000 tons of stores into the exercise area, which would be the squadron's war role, said Capt Dominic Hargreaves.

**Report:**  
**Gordon Skilling**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Perring**

During the exercise the sappers may have seemed an easy target, but an infantry unit's reconnaissance patrol was spotted and LCpl Ginge Harden took out a fighting patrol which approached from the rear and took four prisoners.

After giving them a cup of tea back at HQ, the sappers' kind offer to drive them back to their unit was not taken up . . .

Duly prepared, the sappers gave a good account of themselves during a company attack on their position.

The aim of the exercise was to practise the regiment in its general support role. The second phase concentrated on squadrons doing their own training. Basic skills had to be refreshed before the regimental field training exercise from February 19-23.

The following three days were taken up in physically demanding tests, for which earlier marches carrying 40lb up a mountain was good preparation.

The return to barracks took 61 Fd Spt



Members of 61 Fd Spt Sqn, supervised by Cpl "Sting" Ray Byrne, guide a paliet

Sqn a final week, with the regiment ready to face a much larger task in supporting three regiments during the 3 Division concentration.



Gurkhas of 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn take the strain as they construct a medium girder bridge

## Gurkha sappers put down new roots

A NEW home has been started for 69 Gurkha Field Squadron – and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers – at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone.

Spr Dhanjit Limbu cut the first sod of the £4.5 million project with a plated spade presented by the contractors, Trafalgar House.

The project, which will take a year to complete, is in four parts. As well as accommodation for 105 Gurkhas, a new garage is being built in the technical area, and extensions are being made to the sergeants' mess and to Park House, the Grade 2 listed officers' mess.

Invicta will become the new heart of the QGE, said 69 Sqn OC Maj Tim Treanor.

The regiment was based first in Malaya before moving

to Hong Kong where it stayed for many years before moving out at Christmas 1993.

First construction for the Gurkhas at Maidstone was their temple and Maalo totem.

It has been a turbulent period for the regiment. Under Options for Change the squadron lost its independence and was taken under command of 36 Engineer Regiment. It lost its old home at Kitchener Barracks, Chatham, and was squeezed into Invicta with 50 HQ Squadron, 20 Field Squadron and 61 Field Support Squadron, which were given three purpose-



First installation for the Queen's Gurkha Engineers at Invicta was their Maalo totem, flanked here by Maj (QGO) Judbahadur Gurung and Spr Dhanjit Limbu

road from Maidstone to the M20, 61 Sqn losing its home at The Barracks, Maidstone, to make room for the new road.

New barrack blocks were completed in January 1992, and a new office block for 20 Squadron in September 1992, with a new technical area and workshop added in May 1993.

The dust will not be allowed to settle at Invicta Barracks for a while yet. Next year 240 married quarters are to be modernised.

built accommodation blocks. Invicta Barracks lost a slice of land when Kent County Council constructed a feeder



Most members of 9 Para Fd Sqn took part in operations to provide vital clean water in Rwanda and only needed to refresh their skills at Sennybridge



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MARCH 19 1945  
FORTNIGHTLY  
VOL. 1 - N° 1

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH  ARMY MAGAZINE

Special  
supplement  
BLA  
EDITION

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am glad to have this opportunity of being able to speak to all soldiers in the B.L.A. through the first number of "SOLDIER". You and I have come a long way together; we have been through some very bad times and some very good times.

### And what is the situation to-day?

By no possible conceivable chance can Germany win this war; victory for the Allies, absolute and definite victory, is certain. All that now remains is the conquest of Germany itself.

We are fighting on German soil and we have entered the ring for the last round; there is no time limit for this round; we shall continue until our opponent has had enough.

### And what are we fighting for?

You remember the poem written in the Desert by a soldier of the Eighth Army, in one verse of which he gave his views as to what we were fighting for:

"Peace for the kids, our brothers freed,  
A kinder world, a cleaner breed."

That seems to describe it very well.

I like to feel that out of the comradeship of the great armies that are fighting in this war will be born a new factor: a factor for good, which will be a powerful influence in the difficult days that will lie ahead when the fighting is over.

We must see to it that this will be so.

On your behalf I send our greetings to our comrades serving in other theatres of war. There are many of our friends in Africa, in Italy, in India, in Burma, and in other places; to all of them we send our best wishes, and to the many thousands who garrison and maintain the lines of communication throughout the world.

We salute our comrades in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy, and in the R.A.F.; we soldiers know well that without their efforts we could have achieved little.

We send friendly greeting to the soldiers of the Allied nations fighting with us.

And to our families and friends in the home countries we send a very special word of greeting.

I have often wished "Good luck" to soldiers.

I do so now to "SOLDIER".

*B. L. Montgomery*

Field-Marshal,  
21 Army Group.



2

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# 50th anniversary

## 1945 - 1995





## SOLDIER, an essential source of information

WHEN *Soldier* Magazine came into being in the closing months of the Second World War it answered a pressing need to keep those who were away from home and involved in an enormous enterprise, often facing great peril, informed about and in touch with their comrades around the world.

Over the intervening 50 years it has become an essential source of information, not only for those who serve and for their families, but also for all those who give their spare time to the Territorial Army and Cadets.

The archives of *Soldier* and its library of 400,000 photographic images are a fascinating record of the nation and its Army. For half a century it has chronicled the activities of soldiers in both war and peace. Today its pages show our commitment to an Army fully capable of a wide range of tasks, notably the peacekeeping operations which are such a feature of our unstable world.

This 50th anniversary demonstrates that *Soldier* Magazine continues its tradition of illuminating stories both big and small with humour, concern and enormous professionalism. I am delighted to have this opportunity to pay tribute to all those who have been involved with this magazine over the last half century.

*Malcolm Rifkind*

Malcolm Rifkind  
Secretary of State for Defence

# The Chief would have been proud

AS THE nation prepares to mark the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, *Soldier*, the magazine Monty launched for the troops liberating Europe but which extended its influence far beyond, is celebrating its own 50th birthday.

By 1945 more than 20 major Army newspapers existed around the world. As the Allies closed in on Hitler, Field Marshal Montgomery endorsed the idea of a magazine to bring news from home as well as from other theatres of war.

Army records were scoured, journalistic and artistic talent called in – and the uniformed members of the British Army's No 1 Newspaper Unit, including Fleet Street men who would return to national dailies when the war ended, put together the first fortnightly issue.

Printed in Brussels, its striking front cover bore the cover-date March 19, 1945, the face of an airborne soldier – and a "good luck" message from the Chief himself.

Later that year the magazine took over captured colour presses in Hamburg on which Goebbels's *Signal* had been printed.

Colour had already come to *Soldier*'s front cover with a special VE-Day edition on May 8, 1945 – and the issue which celebrated victory over Japan that August featured the first back-page pin-up in a famous series that was to run for 20 years.

The following month the magazine beat the world with the first news and pictures of Britain's frogmen. Another exclusive gave details of Operation Sea Lion – Hitler's ill-fated cross-Channel invasion plan – a year before Parliament heard the news officially.

In one staff man's words, "scoops fell like confetti" and the wily *Soldier* newsmen, making the most of a certain privileged status conferred upon them, scooped them up.

In 1953, having widened its circulation to Army units around the world (the original intention) and switched to a monthly, *Soldier* transferred its whole operation to the UK and went on sale to civilians. Almost 30 years later it would revert to a fortnightly.

Over the decades the magazine has featured many celebrated names, from cartoonists Friell, Finch, Wiles, Larry and Jon to old soldiers Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan, Denis Healey and Enoch Powell. As a

squaddie with literary pretensions (later to be more than realised) even Les Dawson submitted articles.

The real stars have always been the soldiers, at peace and at war. Teams of writers and photographers have reported from almost every mission in which the British Army has been involved since 1945 – from Aden to Armagh, Borneo to Bosnia, Korea to Kuwait, Palestine to Port Stanley, the Rhine to Rwanda.

The magazine has never lost sight of its original aim – to serve soldiers and their families. It has always been conscious, also, of its many loyal readers in the ex-Service community around the world and others who want to keep in touch with what the British Army is doing.

Copies are sent out every fortnight to subscribers in more than 50 countries – including Albania, Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Eire, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Singapore,

Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and USA.

During its lifetime *Soldier* has had several homes. Brussels, Hamburg and a requisitioned house in Eaton Square, Belgravia were replaced by a converted warehouse in Holloway Road, London, which had once stored ATS underwear.

In 1975 the magazine moved its headquarters to its present purpose-built block in Aldershot.

The magazine's Army sponsorship, under the aegis of the Adjutant General, passed in 1948 from Welfare to Education. Since 1963 its staff of Ministry of Defence civilians have been responsible to the Director of Public Relations (Army).

Meanwhile its production methods have been transformed from wartime typewriters, paper layouts and hot metal presses to the exciting and sophisticated computer wizardry of the 1990s.

As with any 50th birthday, this is a time to reflect and celebrate – and to look forward to the next half-century.

Monty would have been proud.

**'Scoops fell  
like confetti  
... and  
*Soldier*'s  
wily  
newsmen  
scooped  
them up'**



When Fd Marshal Montgomery, who had launched *Soldier* with a good luck message earlier that year, opened the British Army Exhibition in Paris in 1945, Capt Charles Tresise, the magazine's circulation officer, presented him with a copy of the special issue marking VE Day

**1941-2:** Magazine conceived by Col Sean Fielding while serving in the Western Desert.

**1943:** Fielding, Lt Col Philip Youngman Carter and cartoonist Capt Peter Ender draw up dummy issue of "Fact" magazine in Middle East.

**1944:** Dummy brought back to UK in January and "hawked" around War Office until December when Col Archie Chisholm (then head of AWS 3) was urged by AG (Sir Ronald Adam) to produce an Army magazine for BLA.

**1944-45:** Project agreed by Fd Marshal Montgomery. Army records trawled for journalistic experience and small establishment set up in Brussels. HQ shared with British Army News Unit in Eaton Square, London. Title *Soldier* taken from similar project planned years before in War Office by A E Williams (ABC) and Maj Gen Harry Willans (DAW).

**March 19, 1945:** First fortnightly issue printed in Brussels. This and second issue distributed free to British Liberation Army troops.

## MILESTONES

**May 8, 1945:** VE day edition with colour cover.

**May 26, 1945:** *Soldier* present when 11th and last hut in Belsen burned, just 35 days after first British troops had arrived.

**June 23, 1945:** Secret of PLUTO – Pipe Line Under The Ocean – one of Britain's greatest engineering feats of the war revealed in *Soldier*. It stretched from the south coast of the Isle of Wight to the Cherbourg Peninsula.

**August 18, 1945:** First back-page pin-up.

**September 1, 1945:** Printed in Hamburg, on old *Signal* presses, with regular colour covers and scoops world with news of Britain's frogmen.

**January 5, 1946:** Details of Operation Sea Lion, Hitler's master plan for invasion of Britain, appear exclusively in *Soldier*.

## FORTY-ONE MEN WHO MADE HISTORY

IN DECEMBER 1945 everyone who had played a part in the *Soldier* story since its launch received the gift of a bound volume of all that year's issues from the editor-in-chief, Col Sean Fielding.

For most of them demob was close and it was thought at the time – wrongly, as it turned out – that the magazine was to be turned over to BAOR rather than become established as an Army-wide magazine.

In a personal letter to each of the 41 recipients, Col Fielding, who eventually took over a civvy job as editor of *Tatler*, wrote "*Soldier* Magazine forms an integral and very important part of the history of Army newspapers and magazines and you can, with some pride, state that you were among those who made it."

Listed as "The people who founded, edited, produced and distributed *Soldier*" were:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Col S S J Fielding.  
**Assistant Editor:** Lt Col P Youngman Carter.

**Brussels Editor:** Maj A F Anderson.  
**Hamburg Editor:** Maj E S Turner.  
**Sub-editors:** Capt J W Hallows, SQMS J W Mann, SSgt H K Gudenian.

**Reporters:** Maj W Charlton, Capt R L Elley, Capt E J Grove, Capt J W Shaw, Lieut S E Webster, CSM P Irwin, SSgt R Blake, Sgt J Rankine, Sgt N Courtman Davies.

**Artists:** Lieut C W Smith, SSgt F Finch, Sgt J Friell, Cpl E Earnshaw.

**Photographers:** Sgt A C Waterhouse, Sgt M Berman, Sgt W H Pearson, Sgt F D O'Neill.

**Circulation:** Capt I Pitman, Capt C E Tresise, Sgt T R Dawson, Sgt D A B Simmons.

**Printing:** Capt J Radcliffe.

**Accounts:** Sgt K P Wood, Cpl K A Wood.

**Admin:** Sgt R S T Head.

**Q:** Sgt A Cave.

**Drivers:** Dvrs Gillies, W J Sharland, G Smith.

**Packers:** Pte H M Wiseman, Pte W Wingfield, Gnr D Hall, Gnr W G Medland.

**Cook:** Pte W White.

**July 1946:** Magazine switches to monthly publication.

**January 1947:** Circulation extended from Europe to commands around the world.

**November 1948:** Sponsorship transferred from Welfare to Education.

**June 1953:** Special Coronation issue.

**October 1953:** Printing transferred to UK and circulation extended to general public.

**December 1963:** Sponsorship transferred from Education to Public Relations.

**1971:** Moved to Clayton Barracks, Aldershot.

**1975:** Moved to purpose-built offices in Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot.

**July 1977:** Supplement to mark Silver Jubilee of Queen's Succession.

**May 1994:** 84-page to mark D-Day 50th.

**1995:** Golden jubilee year coincides with introduction of computer publishing technology.



## WESTERN DESERT DREAMS CAME TRUE

Most of the original *Soldier* team were already experienced journalists who had donned the uniform of their country to serve in the Second World War.

SSgt Robert Blake was the only one of nine reporters who had never worked for the press - until Col Sean Fielding made his dream come true. Here is his story . . .

THE ROAD to the faded elegance of No 60 Eaton Square where I found the offices of *Soldier* in 1945 began for me, as it did for its founders, in the Western Desert.

Pre-war journalist Sean Fielding (later Colonel) was dreaming of a British Army magazine around 1941. The American Army had its *Yank*, but we had nothing to equal it. In the Middle East there were *Gen* and *Parade*, *Trunk Call* in Iraq, later *Eighth Army News* and *Union Jack* in various editions following troops from Africa to Italy. One of the editors was Warwick Charlton, later a *Soldier* writer.



Robert Blake

In 1938 I was in the desert sitting (when I could) on a petrol can and dreaming of a future, if I survived, as a journalist. I was 19. As yet there was no war. Later, between tank battles (as driver and gunner), I wrote stories and articles which I sent to Army PR in Cairo.

Soon Sean Fielding and Youngman Carter were putting together ideas for *Soldier*, first while serving in the desert, later in Iraq.

After Alamein I joined them there, working as a staff writer on *Trunk Call* and the *Iraq Times*. Fielding had managed to get me out of my tank battalion into PR. Then, in 1943, after five years' foreign tour, I was sent home.

Meanwhile Fielding was trying to get War Office blessing for *Soldier*, and when he did I joined his team at Eaton Square. There I became one of *Soldier's* nine reporters. We had three subs, four artists, four photographers and even our own cook - Pte W White.

It was all new for me, because I was the only reporter who had never been a reporter! But the professionals helped me all the time and without them I would have been lost.

Because *Soldier* was unique for the British Army many tightly shut doors suddenly opened. Scoops fell like confetti. . . the gun that shoots round corners. . . how David Stirling organised the SAS. . . the secrets of PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean). . . how the first commandos operated in Europe. *Soldier* was at the first War Crimes trials and told the full story of how Army frogmen blew up undersea defences on the D-Day beaches.

Fielding and Youngman Carter are gone. I am nearly 77. But I'm glad to have seen *Soldier* survive and prosper after such a long and sometimes painful birth. Long may it continue to flourish. Finally let me say that I was only a very small part of a very experienced and talented team of journalists and it was they who made Sean Fielding's dream come true.

● Robert Blake went on to spend 36 years as a reporter and then news editor with the *Daily Express* in Manchester.

# When Churchill decided no news was bad news

TO the RAF it was the gen. To the Royal Navy, the buzz. The Army called it the griff - short for The True Griffin. It simply meant news, information . . . facts.

To the common soldier, sailor or airman, it was a priceless commodity. This need to give the troops bull-free information - and quickly - was one of the principles on which *Soldier* was founded in 1945.

For many years it was a need which had motivated the men who produced military newspapers. The *Gibraltar Chronicle*, edited in its early days by British Army officers, brought out a special edition in 1805 to scoop the world with the result of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Nelson.

One of the more unusual Army news-sheets was *The Emigrant Soldiers' Gazette and Cape Horn Chronicle*, published weekly in 1858 on board the clipper *Thames City*, which took six months to transport 122 officers and sappers with 31 wives and 34 children via Cape Horn to launch a new colony in British Columbia. The editor was Cpl Sinett and the *Gazette*, written on sheets of cardboard, was read out each Saturday evening by the senior Royal Engineers officer on board.

Sugar-bags were the only paper available when Gen Lord Baden-Powell ordered the production of a news-sheet for his besieged troops during the South African War. The paper did not make the contents any sweeter, but the soldiers got their *Mafeking Mail*.

In 1919 the *Cologne Post and Wiesbaden*



Among officers in this relaxed lunch-party picture taken near Tripoli are (seated from left) Capt Jock McLellan, Lt Richard Elley, who loaned the photo, and Capt Edward Ardizzone (war artist). At the rear are (from left) Maj Tony Milne, who printed *Eighth Army News* on a mobile press in the desert, Capt (later Lt Col, now Lord) Hugh Cudlipp (seated, smoking cigarette) and Capt Warwick Charlton

*Times*, daily newspaper of the first British Army of the Rhine until 1929, published the Versailles Peace Treaty a day ahead of the remainder of the world's press.

Within its first few issues in the 1940s *Soldier* was producing scoops, including retrospective but exclusive details of Britain's D-Day frogmen and Hitler's plans to invade England. In 1952, *Canal Zone*

*News* was produced at Ismailia when Egyptian newspapers were banned during the emergency. Four years later the troops involved in the Suez landings could read the RAEC-produced *2 Corps News* (later renamed *Musketeer News*), almost as soon as their feet touched the ground.

In 1957, the *Mid-Pacific News*, the Army mini-newspaper on Christmas Island, perhaps not surprisingly reported the explosion of Britain's first H-bomb 24 hours before any other newspaper.

Though other Second World War soldier-journalists had long since been giving the troops the true griff, the hunger of the soldier in the field for reliable news was not officially recognised until that great war correspondent Winston Churchill, as Prime Minister, visited the Eighth Army in North Africa in 1943.

He was impressed with local efforts to bring news to the troops but shocked that they received no help from the War Office.

On his return he gave orders that command newspapers should be encouraged and assisted in every way with a "proper and constant" supply of badly-needed news from home. Soon, under the Director of Army Welfare, the London News-Issuing Department (later to become the British Army News Service and operate



Army newspapers of the Second World War loaned to us by ex-SSgt Robert Blake

until 1969) was supplying home news, features, pictures and cartoons to newspapers published in overseas theatres.

These included *Crusader*, the Eighth Army weekly in Africa and Italy, *Parade* and *Gen* in the Middle East, *SEAC*, *Burma Star* and *Contact* in the Far East, *Trunk Call* in Persia-Iraq and *Tripoli Times* in Libya. Later came *Union Jack* in Italy, *Vienna Morning News* in Austria, *Gazette* in Greece and the *News Bulletin* in Trieste.

The News Service, BANEWS, was staffed by experienced journalists and included such famous names as William Connor (Cassandra of the *Daily Mirror*),

Frank Owen, cartoonist Jon and Hugh (now Lord) Cudlipp and his brother Percy.

It had a desk at the Reuter offices in Fleet Street and, with the prefix Forcereuter, transmitted hot news over the agency wires, over Royal Signals channels, by cable, and through Army and commercial radio. Pictures, cartoons and features were sent by airmail.

Even before Churchill's trip to Africa, the concept of an Army-wide magazine called *Fact* had been mooted in the Eighth Army, with Capt (later Col) Sean Fielding and Lt (later Lt Col) Pip Youngman Carter producing a dummy with the help of cartoonist Capt Peter Ender.

Their dream took a few years to come true, but when it was finally launched with a

new title in March 1945, combining with BANEWS to form the No 1 British Army News Unit (BANU), it became the youngest and longest-surviving member of a large family of Second World War Army newspapers and magazines (and countless newsletters) throughout the world.

The magazine's new title was *Soldier* - living proof, 50 years later, of the durability of the true griff.

● The story of BANEWS and *Soldier* is told in the book *Oh, To Be a Soldier!* by the late George Hogan, who was Deputy Editor of this magazine for three years (Merlin Books Ltd, Braunton, Devon, 1992).

An informal story of Army newspapers in the Second World War - based on a radio script by Richard Elley, one of *Soldier's* first reporters

IRAQ, May, 1941. On orders from Berlin, the country is plunged into revolt. The British garrison at Habbaniya is besieged. Reinforcements are sent to Basra to secure for the Allies a port later to become a vital link in the plan for supplying Russia.

For those troops, factual information is in short supply. What is going on in other theatres of war? Have the Germans been cleared off Crete? Has Wavell returned to Tobruk?

What's the "true griff"?

## THE TRUE GRIFFIN

In the First World War the port had had a newspaper called the *Basra Times*. In 1941 a port engineer, realising the need to give the troops the griff, revives it.

Within six days the British Army has taken it over.

The new *Basra Times* was a pioneer effort. The paper was handset, letter by letter, by Indian compositors. The news service was poor and the old flatbed press

creaked out its thousand copies an hour just as it had in the Great War. Editor Eric Cooper's duties were almost endless. Getting up at 3.30 am when it's already hot and sticky and not very safe. The night guards - ^chokydahs - would pull the bolt of their rifles as soon as look at you.

By 7 am, drawing on copy from the Reuter newsagency, the editor had filled seven columns of late news for the paper, a summary of about 1,000 words for Area

HQ and the main news headlines for the British Consulate. Then back to the mess for a quick breakfast before going to the press . . .

That was how the Griffin started - from a one-man show in Basra. By the end of the war the British Army owned and operated 23 newspapers published in all parts of a world at war.

The newspapers just grew.

Take the *Tobruk Truth* - put out during

the siege - not an official Army newspaper, but an example of how soldiers with a duplicator and paper could turn out a news-sheet.

Then there was the *Tunis Telegraph*. With no authority other than his own, Jock McLennan, observer officer with the 7th Armoured Division, simply walked into the first newspaper office he found in Tunis when the town fell and said he was going to start an Army paper.

"I was there for the *Tripoli Times*, so he asked me to help him put the first issue to bed," said Richard Elley.

"We got the paper out all right, but it was a bit hectic. The printing staff kept accus-

● Turn to next page



# The soldier journalists

**Snap!**

❖ The Algiers edition of *Union Jack* was edited in a corset shop, full of tall mirrors and fitting rooms. In the Italian printing works there were never enough Ks or Ws. Whole sentences had to be made up without them.

● From Page 23

ing each other of having collaborated with the Germans and they used our type to throw at each other."

The start of the "*Trip*" *Times* was also a classic, recalls Elley. Warwick Charlton (a pre-war journalist also later to join *Soldier*) went into Tripoli with the first armoured cars, discovered the owner of the local printing works, sent him off to round up some staff and then tried to get news for the first issue.

His wireless set had broken bouncing over the desert into the town and no one else seemed to have one that worked. But he scraped up some second-hand news, got the manager of the Grand

Hotel to translate it into Italian, had the Italian version censored by an American war correspondent who knew the language and the next morning had the first edition of a bi-lingual paper on the streets. Then there was the first edition of *SEAC* in the Far East. When Singapore was relieved, *SEAC* staff reporters found some *Straits Times* staff in an internment camp. They all went to the *Times* office – and two newspapers were soon produced.

Gradually a big Army newspaper organisation evolved. When Italy was invaded, complete Army newspaper units, from editor to cook, were ready to go into captured towns and start producing editions of *Union Jack* within a few hours.

Back in London a co-ordinating body was led by Col Sean Fielding, who dreamed up the idea of *Soldier* in the Western Desert in 1941. The team discussed possible content but the final decisions were left to the editors, who with their staff had all served in ordinary units and knew what their readers wanted. They were not interested in the private lives of film stars or any other "bull". They wanted to debate the issues that concerned them.

But the newspapers had to be accurate. Every detail had to be right. Then as now, the smallest slip was jumped on, especially



Picture: BBC

**Snap!**

❖ In Tunis, a lance-corporal ran his own military commentary in *Union Jack*. His big headache was whether Monty would criticise his analysis of the fighting. Monty never did.

In 1945, soldier-journalists back in London after producing Army newspapers abroad rehearse *The True Griffin* with Richard Dimpleby. The BBC's former war correspondent narrated the radio documentary telling the story of these newspapers.

On the far right is the scriptwriter, Capt Richard Elley, *Soldier* reporter, formerly of *Eighth Army News* and *Crusader*, *Tripoli Times* and *Morning Pioneer* (Madagascar), who now edits *New Crusader*, newsletter of the Eighth Army Veterans Association.

Also in the picture (from left) are: Lt Col Philip (Pip) Youngman Carter, artist and writer husband of crime novelist Margery Allingham, who had worked with

Col Fielding in PAIFORCE and became second editor of *Soldier*;

Maj Jack Dibb, also ex-PAIFORCE; Capt Eric Cooper, again ex-PAIFORCE, where he had edited the *Basra Times*;

Col Sean Fielding, Controller of Army Newspapers and the first editor-in-chief of *Soldier*;

Lt Reg Foster (second right), London correspondent of *SEAC* (Calcutta), the 14th Army's daily paper. In the 1960s, working for the *Daily Sketch*, he was one of two journalists to go to prison for refusing to reveal his sources in the Vassal case.

The programme was first broadcast on the Home Service on November 2, 1945.

the omission of names of units on operations. Good staff were not easy to come by. Editors had to pick up recruits as they could, sometimes by chance meetings. New talent was discovered, including Capt W J Jones (Jon), who joined the British Army Newspaper Unit after Anzio thanks to his famous cartoons of the "Two Types", based on officers he saw in Sicily. The "Types" appeared in *Union Jack*, *Eighth Army News*, *Crusader* and *Soldier* as well as at home in the *Sunday Pictorial*. Jon later worked on the *Daily Mail*.

When Col Fielding's dream of an all-Army magazine finally came true in 1945, Army records were scoured to pool some of the best journalistic, artistic and photographic talent in uniform.

A dummy issue of *Soldier* printed (but never circulated) in February 1945, carried

a front-cover message explaining its raison d'être: "We believe that the soldier wants and requires his own platform and that this cannot be made available in any other way."

"We believe he needs that platform so that facts as he knows them and facts as they are likely to affect him may be stated thereon."

"So *Soldier* magazine comes to life – not, it may be added, entirely without background or pedigree."

"It comes of a family now numbering 23 major Army periodicals and newspapers of one sort or another published in almost every country where the British soldier serves; and it is largely produced by soldiers who have founded, edited, written for, printed or otherwise helped to produce that family."

"We give you *Soldier* magazine. Read it, write to it. It is yours."

**Snap!**

❖ Monty distributed the *Hellfire Edition* of *Eighth Army News* himself.



The Americans had *Yank*, the Germans had *Signal*. But **Soldier**, the late starter, outstayed them all

# Brussels, Belgravia, Hamburg and Holloway

by Ernest Turner, Editor 1946-1957

IN LIBERATED Brussels, in 1945, the girls wore British Army flashes and earrings made from officers' pips.

It was there, on March 19, that we drank to the success of *Soldier* as the first issues slid off the presses. The mood was high, but not high enough for anyone to prophesy that the magazine would still be around half a century later.

The American Army already had its magazine *Yank* and the German Army its many-edited *Signal*. Both were highly professional jobs. But if *Soldier* was a late starter it was to prove a long stayer.

It was produced for the "British Liberation Army", better known as the British Army of the Rhine, which still had tough battles to fight, though the outcome was not in doubt.

Extracted from a London anti-aircraft site, I found myself a minor cog in the Brussels launch of *Soldier*.

In command was Major A F ("Andy") Anderson, a resourceful Gordon Highlander who, on demob, would rejoin *Daily Mirror* Newspapers.

The editor, then styled editor-in-chief, was Colonel Sean Fielding, formerly of the *Daily Mail*. He was enthroned in London's Belgravia, where the Army had "mouse-holed" through the Duke of Westminster's costly terraces along the south side of Eaton Square. Earlier in the war Fielding and Lt Col Philip Youngman Carter, artist and writer, had worked on a "dummy" of *Soldier* in Cairo and Baghdad.

Of those former newspaper men pulled, like me, from the various arms in which they had been soldiering, some had already served on Army newspapers like *Union Jack* and *Eighth Army News*.

Producing a lively magazine within a disciplined military framework was quite a challenge, but how agreeable it was to be



Eaton Square, in London's fashionable Belgravia, where *Soldier* shared its HQ with the British Army Newspaper Unit



*Soldier's* predecessor on its Hamburg presses was Goebbels's *Signal* magazine

paid by the Army to pursue one's own trade!

I am somewhat surprised to find that we had more than 40 men on strength, including four packers, three drivers and a cook.

Soon after the war in Europe ended we moved the production unit from happy-go-lucky Brussels to devastated Hamburg, there to print on requisitioned colour presses which had turned out Dr Goebbels's *Signal*. Most of the editorial copy was flown out from London (faxes would have been welcome).

This was a time when the rush to demob brought swift and even startling promotion for those still in uniform. After a brief spell as Hamburg editor I moved to London

and, early in 1946, became third "editor-in-chief". My two predecessors, Fielding and Youngman Carter, became successive editors of *The Tatler*, as fundamental a switch as could be imagined.

I stayed with *Soldier* for eleven enjoyable years before leaving to freelance and write books.

Others initially on the strength fell out gradually to become novelists, biographers, thriller-writers, editors, cartoonists, society photographers, advertising men and much else; one, I seem to remember, resumed a successful career as the racing correspondent "Sir Harry".

Sean Fielding, the founding figure, wrote at the end of 1945 that his dream of *Soldier* becoming the Army's permanent magazine had proved impossible of fulfilment. Luckily, he was dead wrong; but he was a man to whom we all owe a great debt.

In July 1946 we relaunched *Soldier*, which had been a fortnightly, as a monthly devoted exclusively to the Army. The earliest issues had run general interest articles on life in Britain.

Henceforth the Army was the real story and the whole story. Its standing had never been higher and its achievements cried aloud to be honoured.

Inevitably it became a tale of shrinkage and amalgamations. The proud divisional odysseys and the secrets of the special units gave way to reports of last troops in Italy, last troops in Palestine, last troops – incredibly – in India, last troops in Egypt.

But while an empire was being wound up a robust new role was being forged for the Army in NATO. And "trouble spots" still abounded, calling for old-fashioned infantry skills – not least in Trieste, Malaya and Cyprus. *Soldier's* reporters and cameramen were there to tell the story.

Reporters have more fun than editors, but I snatched the occasional overseas tour.

● Turn to next page



# Scoops, scandals . . . and the envy of other armies

by John Grove, Editor 1957-1962

A 50th anniversary is a reason and an excuse for remembering.

I remember the excitement of leafing through the pages of the first issue of *Soldier* 50 years ago and discussing its content and layout with my colleagues.

None of us could have known then that *Soldier* would become the envy of every other army and, 50 years on, would still be alive and thriving.

I remember how *Soldier* scooped the world by revealing the German plan for the invasion of Britain and many other wartime secrets. In those early years rarely a month went by without one or more of the national newspapers lifting stories first told by *Soldier*.

I remember the War Minister (Anthony Head) stoutly defending *Soldier* in the House of Commons against an MP's complaint that our back-page pin-up girls were "too scantily dressed".

I remember the seven years I spent in Hamburg as Local Editor when my col-



Editor John Grove and former PoW Karl-Heinz Böttger

leagues and I covered the achievements and activities of British troops serving in every country from Norway in the north to Austria in the south and from Holland in

the west to Czechoslovakia in the east.

It was my job, too, to proof-read and put the magazine to bed on the same presses that printed the wartime German Army magazine *Signal*.

We had to overcome many problems: the presses often broke down for lack of spare parts and shortage of equipment to maintain them; materials needed to carry out the photogravure etching processes were always in short supply and paper was invariably of poor quality. But somehow we coped and met the print

order on time every month.

I remember with affection and gratitude for their help and friendship those of my old colleagues who played a significant part

## From Brussels to Holloway

● From Page 25

I saw Berliners swarming to watch a British Army tattoo in Hitler's Olympic stadium; I flew in an Army Auster over the abysses of Eritrea; I tried to find the elusive site of the battle of Omdurman; and I interviewed a British general in his perch on – of all places – the 62nd floor of the Empire State Building in New York.

As editor until 1957 I was pleasantly surprised at the free hand I was given, first under Army Welfare and then under the Royal Army Educational Corps.

Obviously we could not sit in Eaton Square indefinitely, nor could we print in Hamburg for ever. It was a lowering moment, though, when we had to leave the Duke of Westminster's fiefdom for a converted warehouse in Holloway. The magazine was printed in Britain from October, 1953.

In the interests of the taxpayer we had long been accepting advertisements. They were not all for boot polish and razor blades. To those whose Army service was ending Dirk Bogarde had a message: "If you want to get ahead – get a hat!" Other suggestions were: "Join the Palestine Police – It's a Man's Life" and "Join the Prison Service". Puritanically, perhaps, we did not accept football pools advertisements.

It took my successors a long time to scrap the back-page pin-up, which in the early days had sometimes been corny to a degree.

I have to congratulate them on developing a magazine with a polish, a range, a cohesion and a durability that should see *Soldier* through the next 50 years.



Russian soldiers enjoy a look at *Soldier* at Helmstedt in 1945. The magazine became the envy of many armies

in those early days in making *Soldier* an outstanding success:

Ernest Turner, a brilliant editor, whose leadership, enthusiasm and journalistic skills were recognised by the award of the OBE. A regular contributor to the late and much-lamented magazine *Punch*, he even found time while editor of *Soldier* to write the first of his highly-successful books on social history.

Richard Elley, probably the most-travelled and prolific feature writer, who covered the British Army activities in Europe, Africa, the Far East and the Middle East. After leaving *Soldier* he became Chief Public Relations Officer to Far East Land Forces in Hong Kong.

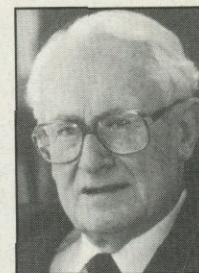
Ted Jones, feature writer, who later went to Uganda as *The Observer* and *News Chronicle* correspondent, was given 24 hours to leave the country for criticising President Obote and retired as chief sub-editor of the *New Zealand Herald*.

Charles Smith, feature writer, who emigrated to Canada, wrote a book on the history of military weapons and became an assistant editor of *Reader's Digest*.

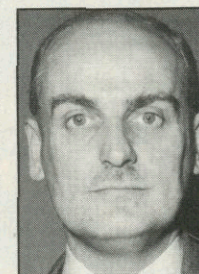
Peter Lawrence, another feature writer and pre-war reporter, who left to join the *News Chronicle* and then emigrated to work on newspapers in South Africa.

Desmond O'Neill, our senior photogra-

pher, whose graphic cine film of British troops storming the Normandy beaches was published world-wide. He worked with all feature writers while on *Soldier*'s staff and left to become one of the leading society photographers.



Peter Lawrence



Richard Elley

Frank Finch, art editor from 1948 to 1976, one of the longest-serving members of *Soldier*'s staff, whose work still appears regularly in the magazine. His design skills and witty cartoons have embellished most of *Soldier*'s editions over the past 50 years.

Karl-Heinz Böttger, former prisoner-of-war of the Allies, who as my secretary in Germany had an enviable knack of smoothing ruffled feathers and finding answers to apparently insoluble problems. When *Soldier* left Hamburg, he re-joined the German Army and ten years later came to London as Colonel Böttger, West German military attaché.

Finally, I remember with gratitude all those happy and rewarding years I spent with *Soldier*, particularly when I was fortunate enough to be its editor.

It is no small pleasure to know that *Soldier* has entertained, informed and helped sustain the morale of generations of British soldiers.

Long may it continue to do so.

## A word spelled new life for Mr B

ONE 13-letter word made all the difference to former Allied prisoner-of-war Karl-Heinz Böttger when he applied for a job with *Soldier* in Hamburg in 1947.

An Afrika Korps officer captured by New Zealanders at Ruweisat Ridge, Alamein, in July 1942, he had spent almost five years "as a guest of His Majesty" in Canada, behind barbed wire and working on farms.

On his return to Germany he heard the British were looking for a "reliable, trustworthy, non-Nazi" to liaise between *Soldier*'s local editor and the German printers.

"I reported there on March 24, 1947 in my old green Army uniform, without rank badges, of course; I had nothing else," he recalled.

"Mr Grove, the local editor, asked me about my past experience and qualifications. I gave him my Army particulars.

"Then he asked me to spell 'accommodation'. I did so, correctly. His prompt reply: 'You are employed. Start tomorrow.'"

The *Soldier* journalists may have known how to spell one of the most commonly misspelled words in the English language, but they had difficulty in pronouncing Böttger's name. He became known by everyone as "Mr B".

He and chief sub-editor Lt Charles Smith RTR, who had also been a prisoner-of-war, married sisters. Smith later emigrated to Canada, where he became an editorial executive on *Reader's Digest* in Montreal.

After *Soldier* pulled out of Hamburg and concentrated its operation in the UK in 1953, Böttger joined the new West German Army – and went on to become military attaché in London from 1970-74 in the rank of colonel.

From his Norderstedt home, Karl-Heinz said: "*Soldier* gave me a new life after captivity. I spent a very happy six years there."

## Joke went down like a wood balloon

A snippet of news from the first issue:

"To trick British airmen into wasting bombs, the German Army of Occupation in the Netherlands built a vast fake airfield of wood, with hangars and airplanes painted on it. The next night a lone British bomber flew overhead and dropped – one wooden bomb. The Germans were most annoyed.

They couldn't see the joke."



Picture: Imperial War Museum

Hamburg, September 1945, Sgt Norman Courtman-Davies, Sgt Jimmy Friell and Maj Ernest Turner discuss the layout of a story Courtman-Davies had written



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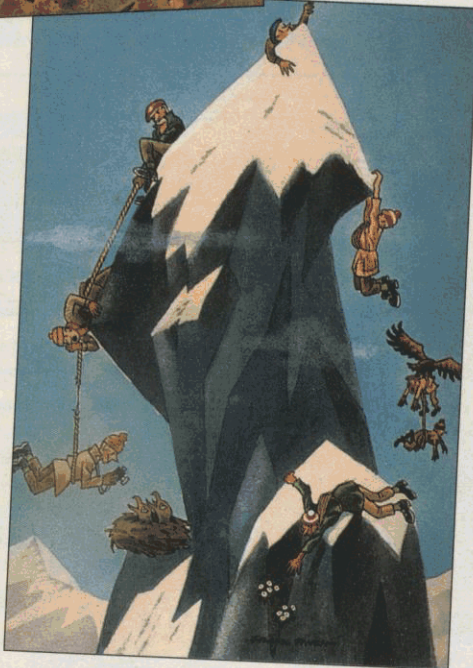
**THE FORCE IN  
FORCES' INSURANCE**



# Works of art

IN the days before hi-tech graphics, the task of producing lively and relevant front covers often fell to the art department. Over the years *Soldier* has been blessed with several exceptional talents, who, as in these examples by long-serving Frank Finch (left and below) and Alec (right) painted onto board.

● Souvenir postcards showing 20 examples of *Soldier* artwork covers from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s have been reproduced in a full-colour book.  
● Details of how to order this collection and a reprint of the historic first edition appear in Page 2.



Life in a barrack room, by Alec. The cover of *Soldier* on the bed, bottom centre right, has a cover which carries the same artwork in miniature

## Frank's own half-century

ONE MAN has the distinction of having served *Soldier* – both as a staff member and latterly as a freelance contributor – since 1945.

This half-century of achievement belongs to the artist Frank Finch, who joined the magazine as a staff sergeant shortly after VE Day and produced some of its most memorable illustrations before retiring as Art Editor in 1976.

Now, at the grand age of 80, though suffering from arthritis in his hands, he still contributes to the popular "How Observant Are You?" competition, a series which he started in 1956.

Frank, a Lancastrian, who worked as a commercial artist in the 1930s, spent five years with the RAMC in East Africa drawing foot-wide illustrations of parasites for the command malariologist as well as contributing to the Army magazine, *Jambo*.

On disembarkation leave in 1945 he was

summoned to join *Soldier* at its Eaton Square HQ by the assistant editor, Lt Col Pip Youngman Carter, himself a talented artist.

Over the years Frank's freelance work has been published in a number of magazines such as *Tatler*, *London Opinion*, *John Bull* and the much-lamented *Punch*, to which he sent a speculative cartoon from East Africa in 1944.

He is believed to be the only staff member to have been featured on the front cover of *Soldier*. In 1946 the back view of his uniformed figure featured in a design by Eric Earnshaw. "I always felt sorry for Eric because most of us were of commissioned rank but he only had two stripes. Although there was little feeling of rank by among us by then, there was this brilliant artist, mooching



Frank Finch – half century of artistry

about in the corporals' mess!" Frank has fond memories of those Eaton Square days – of the unnamed staff member who would go mysteriously AWOL every lunchtime and return refreshed to his labours at about 3.30 pm – until a camp bed was discovered in the attic; and of summer picnics on the green in the centre of the square ("You wouldn't get away with that nowadays – it's high-grade property now.")

He also has favourable personal recollections of the military leaders Slim, Wingate, Harding, Anderson – and Montgomery. Of the "good luck" message by

Monty on the cover of the first issue, Frank said: "That was typical of the man. He was genuinely interested in the magazine."



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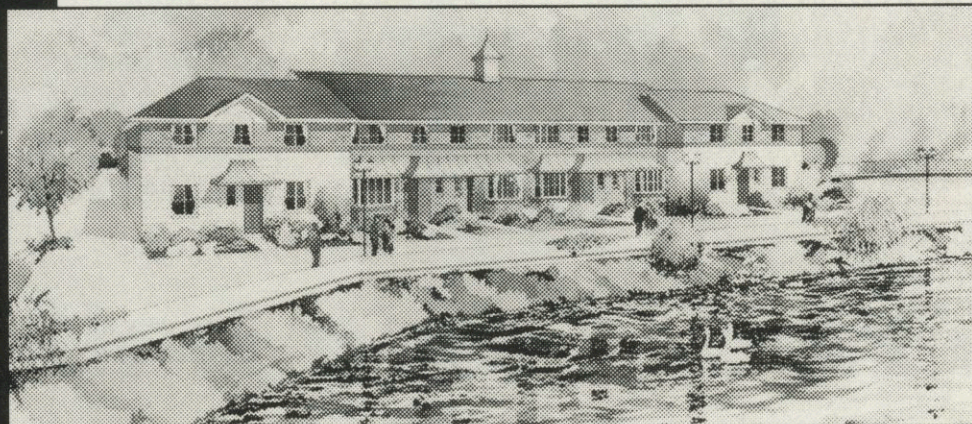
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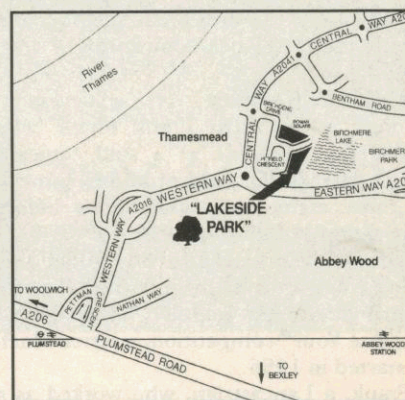
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**BANNED!**

# The rise and fall of the pin-up

NEVER in the field of human conflict or all the annals of military matters had there been such a sensation as hit the front pages one Thursday in January, 1966.

"*Soldier* casts off its pin-up girls" mourned the *Daily Telegraph*, over a story about the magazine's decision to drop its famous pin-up feature after 20 years. "Today marks the end of a Service era" was the solemnly tongue-in-cheek opening sentence.

"The Army gives its pin-ups the boot" shrieked the *Daily Mirror*.

"*Soldier* cuts the cheesecake" bemoaned the *Daily Mail*, whose gossip columnist intoned: "Pin-ups...ah, the word bulges with savoury memories and evocations."

"Vera Lynn, Naafi cakes, *Kiss Me Good-night Sergeant Major*, Come on, let's be 'avin' yer! and all that."

"Where the boys were, there were the pin-ups. And one great source of supply was the back page of *Soldier*, the monthly magazine of the Army."

"But not any more. *Soldier* has decided to abandon the back-page pin-up."

The *Mail* noted that the top shelves of bookstalls were by then crammed with increasingly more explicit glamour material and quoted LCpl Tony Norman as saying: "Most of *Soldier*'s pin-ups were too well-dressed. Lots of clothes, little cleavage and girls like Doris Day."

Cheekily, the *Mail* columnist added: "Faced with the competition, *Soldier* has given up. After all, it's published by the Ministry of Defence. You have got to have some standards."

*Soldier* had carried "glamour" pictures in most issues, starting with the very first on March 19, 1945 — the leggy Ida

**Soldier**  
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



**THE NAME'S CHERRY**

Just for a change — a picture of one of Britain's "pin-upulous" young women. What sort of view do you take of CHERRY RICHARDS, 20, of Doncaster, Yorkshire?



First glamour pic — Ida Lupino, from the first edition of the magazine

Lupino, clad in figure-hugging jumper, hotpants and fish-net stockings. It would set any red-blooded male's pulse racing even now.

First pin-up to occupy the back cover — and thus start an institution — was the 20-year-old Cherry Richards, of Doncaster, Yorkshire. She wore a swimsuit, made from a vest, which caused a sensation.

Almost half a century later she unwittingly caused more excitement when the

August 18, 1945: first back-page pin-up — Cherry Richards, in "vest" swimsuit

Imperial War Museum announced it was trying to trace her in connection with its 1993 "Forces Sweethearts" exhibition.

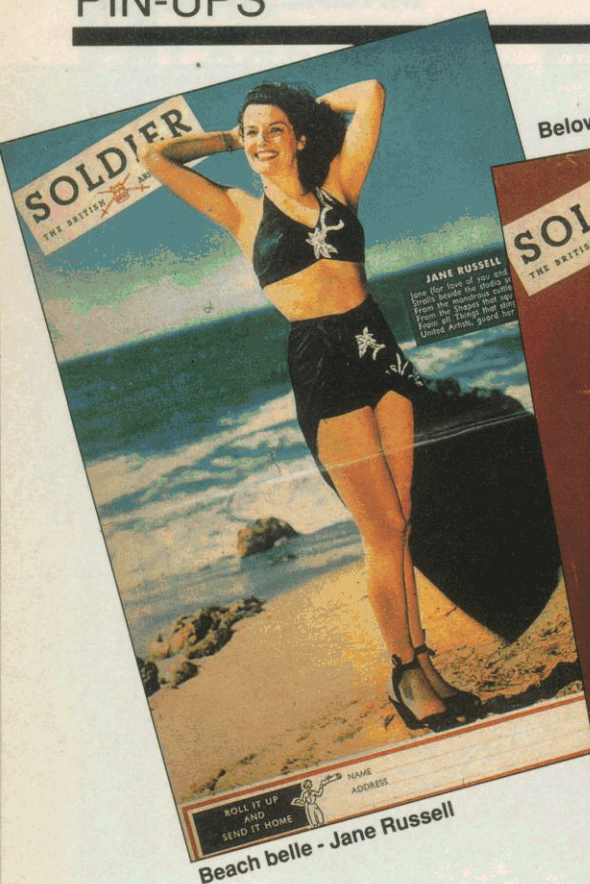
This set the newshounds howling once again — packs of them scoured the country in an undignified hue and cry until one national newspaper tracked the unsuspecting grandmother down at her home...in Doncaster.

Back in 1945 the pin-up reflected the common soldier's longing to get the war over and get back home. After Cherry, the girls featured were mainly from publicity stills of the major film companies — demure poses (by today's standards) of most of the stars, from Jane Russell to Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe to Raquel Welch.

Back-cover glamour shots were usually ripped from the magazine and stuck up on squaddies' lockers and walls — hence the word pin-up. It was an astute piece of publicity for the film companies, not to mention for *Soldier*, whose logo was discreetly though unmistakably placed in a corner of the page.

● Turn to next page





Beach belle - Jane Russell

Below - The eyes have it - Ava Gardner



SOLDIER  
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



Left - Pulling the heart-strings - Marilyn Monroe

Below - Pan's person - Diana Dors



SOLDIER  
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



Girl-next-door - Debbie Reynolds



Pillar of showbiz - Elizabeth Taylor

## Censored?

EDITORS of *Soldier* have always been given a large measure of independence by the Army. "Freedom with responsibility" has been the unwritten code and any censorship has been of the self-imposed variety. Well, almost always...

The only recorded attempt at official censorship of the magazine ended in failure.

In its early days, before printing moved from Hamburg to Britain in 1953 a Rhine Army brigadier had to check proofs for breaches of security.

He objected to a caption a staff writer had placed under a reproduction of his headquarters' 1949 Christmas card - painted by a sergeant and chosen by the C-in-C - which recalled that the British had beaten the French in the Battle of Minden.

The brigadier ruled that it was wrong to remind our gallant ally of the occasion in question (even though it was back in 1759).

The magazine disagreed, and complained to a higher authority in the person of the Adjutant General, who decided to end this form of editorial supervision once and for all.

He commented: "If the argument put forward by Brig - was carried to a logical conclusion we would have to start renaming at least two of London's railway stations."

## BANNED!

● From Page 31

Other people wanted to rip the back page from the magazine for different reasons.

In 1957, *Soldier* was banned from the public library at Eastleigh, Hampshire, because of "a picture of a young lady rather scantily dressed".

The local Army Information Centre had offered the library free copies of the magazine. Perusing its pages, council committee members murmured approvingly as they studied articles on the Defence of Lucknow, Lord Nuffield, and old recruiting posters. Then they reached the back page - to be startled by the lovely, blonde, smiling, "girl-next-door" face of Jeanne Ferguson.

Library committee chairman Councillor Albert Lee (30) told the *Daily Express* later: "There was this picture on the cover of a young lady wearing, I think, a bikini. That was our main objection."

Sir John Simpson, Controller of HM Stationery Office, confessed to being "most surprised" by the ban and a puzzled spokesman for the Army Information Centre agreed, protesting with hurt pride: "The Queen is a subscriber. The magazine is read by old soldiers and serving men everywhere."

Opposition to the pin-up there may have been (and a few schools were less than



Jeanne Ferguson - got *Soldier* banned from Eastleigh Public Library in 1957

enthusiastic), but it was not until 1965 that editor Peter Wood decided it was out of date and steeled himself to end the tradition. Film star Shirley Jones, in the October issue of that year, was the last before the axe fell.

An editorial in a subsequent issue confirmed, like a headmaster dishing out punishment for offences committed behind the bicycle shed, that the pin-ups indeed been banished from the pages of *Soldier*.

And in what sounded suspiciously like a recital of misdemeanours, the

writer added the gratuitous statistics that since 1945 covers had featured "a pantomime star, a 'Star in Battledress', a Windmill girl, eight girls of the Auxiliary Territorial Service and Naafi, 12 models and 222 film stars."

It was too good a story for the press to ignore. After all, it involved our boys in khaki, a hint of official censorship...and 245 beautiful women.

Apparently surprised by the media outcry, *Soldier* was stung into a response in a page feature in March 1966 which offered an olive branch to the pro-pin-up lobby.

"*Soldier's* decision to give its pin-ups their marching orders created, to put it mildly, something of a stir," said the editorial.

"Journalists all over the world harked back to their old Army days, wiping away the odd tear at the thought of the lads being deprived of the traditional 'bird on the back'.

"There were suggestions that officialdom had banned the pin-up. There was no such ban. The decision to oust the pin-up was taken editorially and was not influenced by any outside source.

"The main reason for the decision was simply that without the pin-up there is more scope to use the only full colour pages the magazine is allowed with double-cover pictures of the Army throughout the world.

"It was felt that *Soldier's* pin-ups were not in fact being pinned up, probably because they were too decorous, and it was not thought that readers would genuinely miss them...

"Now, prompted by the publicity, protests are coming in. IF the demand to bring her back is really strong, then the pin-up will again grace the back cover from time to time. For *Soldier* is, above all, YOUR magazine."

At the foot of the page, *Soldier* printed letters from readers.

"It is with a feeling of sadness and regret that I read about the disappearance of our pin-ups...If this diabolical liberty is to be taken I shall have to seriously consider cancelling my order." — P J Whitley, Taverham, Norfolk.

"May I offer my sincere sympathy to the young soldiers of today...now their traditional relaxation is with them no longer." — C J



Last back-page pin-up - Shirley Jones

McKay, Whangerei, New Zealand.

"As the mother and sister of a serving soldier, may we say how sorry we are that you have seen fit to stop publishing pictures of young ladies...We think they were extremely attractive in the nicest possible way." — Mrs E Hodge and Miss C Hodge, Cardiff.

"Do you seriously believe that any soldier would rather look at a group of infantile cartoons than an attractive pin-up? If so, you are badly mistaken. You are out of touch; even clueless." — M W Learey, Herne Bay, Kent.

"Congratulations on getting rid of the pin-ups...they were rather boring. What

about pin-ups of generals?" — Alison Kinnis, Hastings, Sussex.

Pin-ups, even of generals, never did return to the back page or any page of *Soldier* magazine. But there is a footnote to this story.

Between October 1978 and October 1981, in addition to the monthly magazine, the *Soldier* staff in Aldershot produced a fortnightly tabloid newspaper, *Soldier News*.

Its later issues included full-page colour pin-ups of a more explicit nature, though far from pornographic,

hidden away on an inside page. Reaction to them is not recorded, though by then such illustrations were becoming commonplace in some sections of the media.

When it was decided to close the newspaper and turn the magazine back from a monthly into a fortnightly (which was how it started in 1945) the pin-ups disappeared again.

And as far as we know, they have not been missed.

Unless, of course, you know better...



## Climb of 96 steps kept circulation going

BREAKFAST in bed on Sundays – and a climb of 96 steps up to the office – are vivid recollections for Doug Watson, of Nuneaton, who worked on the *Soldier* circulation staff in Hamburg in 1947-48.

Doug, who was a corporal in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment by the time he was demobbed, had seen service in the RAF and the Glider Pilot Regiment before being posted to No 1 British Army Newspaper Unit in Hamburg.

"During my time with *Soldier* we lived in civilian billets at 24 Binder-strasse, where

on Sundays we were usually served breakfast in bed.

"Unit transport was housed in the nearby telephone exchange, where the usual routine in the mornings was to push the Volkswagen until it started, tow the Humber with that, the 15cwt with the Humber, and the 3-tonner with the 15cwt.

"The staff of about a dozen then piled in for the trip to our office in Grossebleichenstrasse – which involved a climb of 96 steps!"

Doug worked with Sgt Charlie Ogier, ex-

Cameronians. As well as distributing the magazine to north and south Germany a large number went to London, via train to the Hook of Holland.

"Another monthly chore was to take a load of old magazines to the meal halt at Bentheim, where they were sold to the incoming soldiers.

"At the leave centre at Scharbeutz on the Baltic Coast we had a small 'shop' and every so often a couple of us were detached from Friday to Monday morning to sell *Soldier* and have a good time."

# In Hamburg's icy ruins we produced our magazine

Right: John Prebble (greatcoat, right) and photographer Desmond O'Neill research a story on Hamburg's orphans living in the ruins of the city

1940s photographs loaned by John Prebble and Doug Watson

JOHN PREBBLE, the distinguished writer now in his 80th year, joined No 1 British Army Newspaper Unit and *Soldier* in rubble-strewn Hamburg in the autumn of 1945.

He was there "throughout a hard, bitter and relentless winter" and into the spring, when demobilisation took him away.

A Beaverbrook journalist before the war, he had been conscripted into the Royal Artillery in 1940.

After the war he resumed his career as a newspaperman and has since achieved considerable prominence and acclaim as a novelist, historian, film writer and author of dramatised documentaries for TV and radio.

His trilogy *The Highland Clearances*, *Glencoe* and *Culloden* are classic works of Scottish history. In 1993 he was awarded the McVitie Prize for the Scottish Writer of the Year.

In his highly-recommended "intermittent biography", *Landscapes and Memories*\*, he crafts an evocative collage comprising Scotland, its scenery and history, and his personal recollections of a life which included six years in the Army.

As a soldier based near Duisburg in the hot German summer of 1945 he began writing his second novel, *The Edge of Darkness*, but admits that he "gave more care and placed more hope in the pieces I also wrote for *Soldier*, the BANU magazine I wished to join in Hamburg."

Eventually he achieved his wish, leaving



"Our Christmas dinner [1945] in Binder-strasse began at two o'clock in the afternoon and continued in one form or another until well beyond midnight. It is preserved for ever in a clouded photograph, half-remembered faces leaning forward over the littered table to be in

shot. Not long after it was taken we heard the sound of children's voices singing *Stille Nacht* in the street below...

... We gave them sweets and bread and coffee, and pushed

Occupation Marks into their pockets. Burckhardt's son was among them. I recognised his eyes and pinched face in a wrapping of wool. For the first time, he smiled at us."

his unit to become a sergeant-reporter with No 1 BANU in the devastated city centre.

"We produced our magazine *Soldier* in a ruined print-house on Grossebleichenstrasse but were quartered in Binder-strasse to the north, beyond Loigny Platz in the district that had perhaps suffered least from Allied raids.

The house was large, built as a comfortable

family home in the last century. It occupied a corner with Schluter-strasse, opposite a telephone exchange. This was bravely manned by a corporal of the Royal Engineers and a polyglot flock of young girls, released slave-labour from Western and Eastern Europe.

At the end of the street there had once been a synagogue, according to an old map I found in the office, but no one I spoke to could or would remember it.

The house also overlooked the green square of Ansucht Garten in which every tree of any size had long since been cut for fuel. Not many of the city's trees survived the last black winter of war and the first of peace. Old men and women now gathered meagre twigs in the parks, and children stood on the stumps of once magnificent lindens, bargaining for cigarettes and coffee.

There were three storeys to the greystone house and we – sergeants and sergeant-reporters – lived on the first floor. Below us were the unit's drivers, mechanics and clerks... Our vehicles filled the small front garden, wheels and petrol tanks locked at night against black-market thieves."

Prebble writes eloquently of people and events in those transitional, immediate postwar times.

"Burckhardt was a journalist and had



Above left: Sergeants' Mess, Binder-strasse. O'Neill took this picture of (from left) Johnny Rankine, John Prebble, Ken Pemberton-Wood and Ray Head. Above centre: 24 Binder-strasse, where the ORs and Sergeants' Messes were housed on different floors. Above right: Doug Watson and colleagues in the *Soldier* shop in Scharbeutz on the Baltic coast

Col Mike Young in his office with a 1947 issue of *Soldier* which he remembers being prepared in Hamburg

## Spoken like a man – and he never looked back



ASK Col Mike Young to recall one of the most uncomfortable moments of his life and he will take you back to 1947 to a building in Hamburg.

There, as a 12-year-old schoolboy, he was suddenly asked by his teacher to make an impromptu speech of thanks on behalf of his fellow classmates.

The venue was *Soldier* magazine's offices hidden away in a back street off the city's fashionable centre, where the school party had been taken on a tour.

"I remember it was pretty chaotic and there wasn't an inch of space, but I was fascinated by the paste-ups, and how the staff put the 'jigsaw' together," he says.

He and his brother had not been in Hamburg long, and were attending the British School. They had travelled from England to join their father, a Royal Artillery officer who

was Hamburg's town major.

When he subsequently joined the Army, he broke his father's heart by opting, not for the gunners, but for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

His visit to the magazine was one of the seeds that led to an interest in writing, says Col Young.

These days, he is to be found at Deepcut, Surrey, where he edits the *Royal Logistic Corps Journal*, following six years in the editor's chair of the Royal Corps of Transport's magazine, *The Waggoner*.

He has collected copies of *Soldier* for many years.

"I look on it as a vibrant publication," he says, "and I read every word about the RLC and its predecessors. The Army has changed, and *Soldier* has to – and does – reflect that. Its speed of reaction to events is admirable: I pick up more about the Army in the magazine than anywhere else."

He remembers vividly that day in Hamburg 48 years ago: it was the first time he ever had to make a speech.

an enduring picture in my mind is of snow spiralling on the up-wind from the pit. It was drawn into the floor where it fell gently upon hunched shoulders, the scarves, coats, caps and woollen mittens of the printers.

They were mostly middle-aged men, and because they did not want Occupation Marks

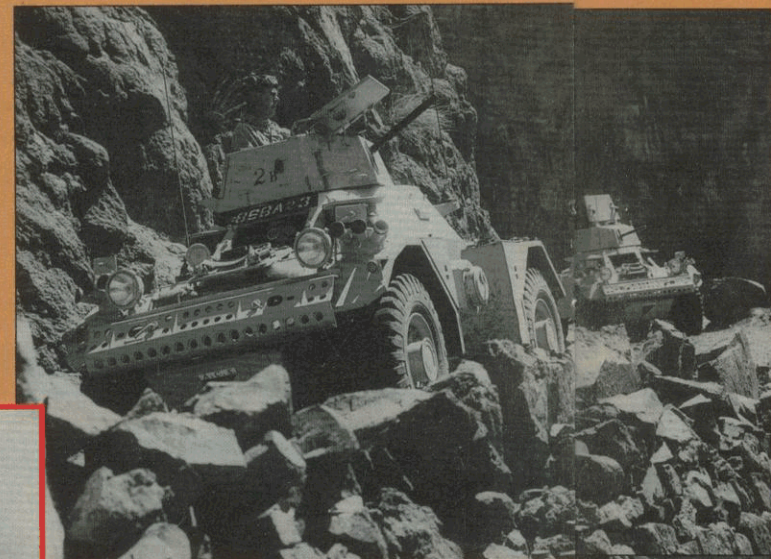
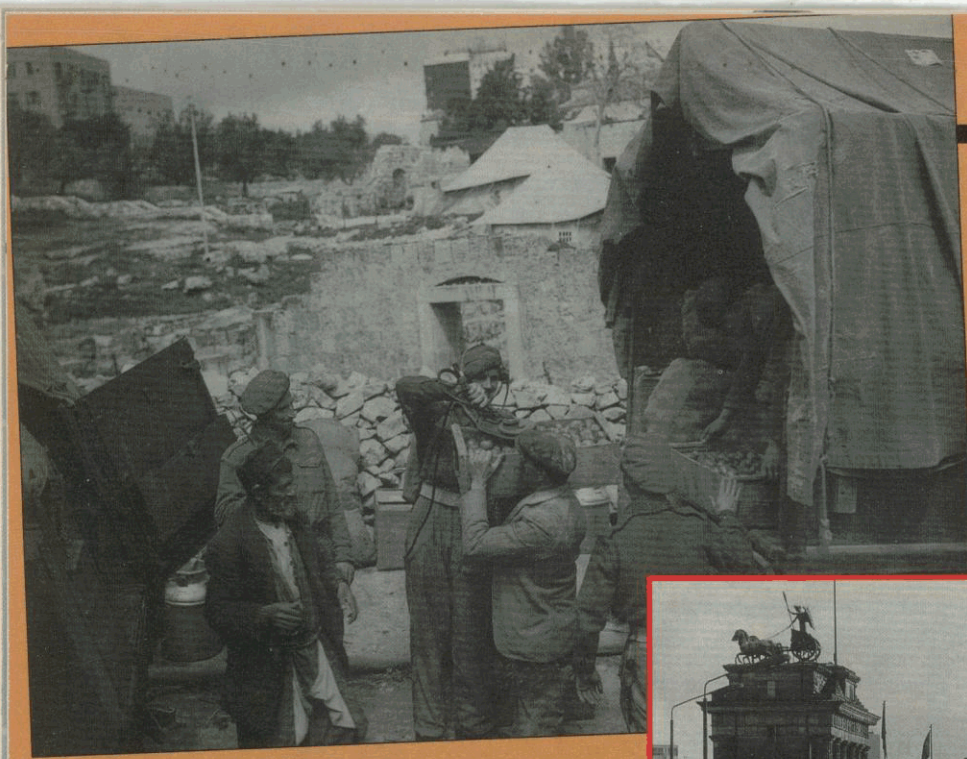
they too were paid in kind, in cigarettes, tea, coffee or other barterable commodities.

Having no English, they set type letter by letter and made fewer mistakes than I have known in Britain."

\**Landscapes and Memories* by John Prebble. HarperCollins, paperback, £7.99.

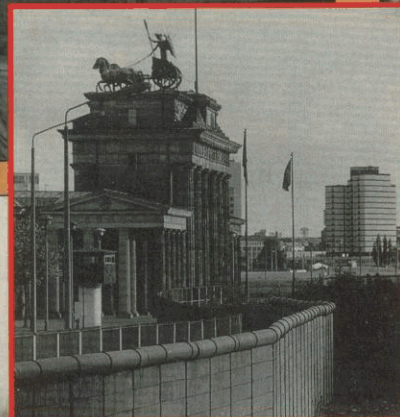


## THE YEARS OF CONFLICT



Above: **THE GULF (1990)** – Key players on a Challenger 2 are Defence Secretary Tom King, 7 Armoured Brigade commander Brig Patrick Cordingley and Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander British Forces

Left: **ADEN (1957)** – British armoured cars in the Khreba Pass, Western Aden Protectorate

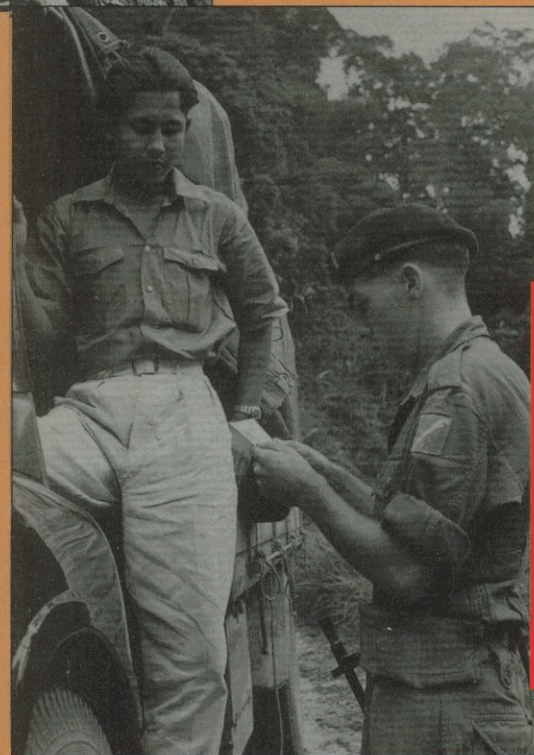


Top left: **PALESTINE** – British soldiers search for arms hidden among food entering the old city of Jerusalem

Left (inset): **BERLIN (1961)** – Cold War

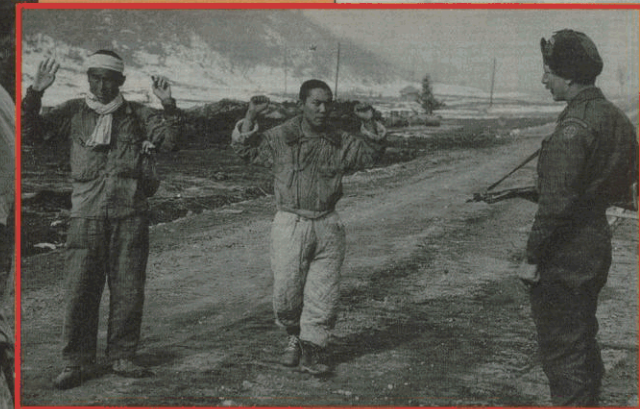
Left: **BOSNIA (1992)** – British armour escorts a United Nations aid convoy

Below: **THE FALKLANDS (1982)** – Troops file ashore as a Royal Marine watches for Argentine aircraft



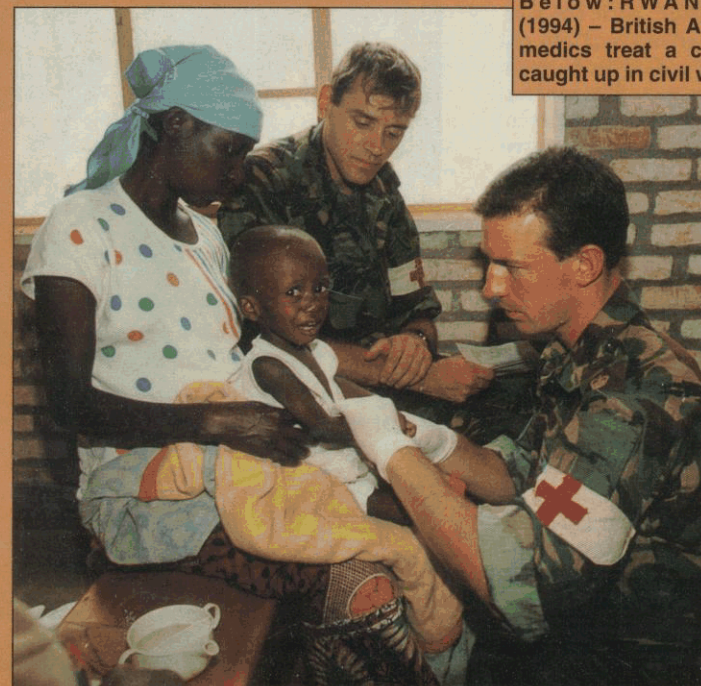
Right: **NORTHERN IRELAND (1969-95)** – An end to the Troubles in sight at last?

Left: **MALAYA (1956)** – A Royal Hussar examines the identity card of a Chinese lorry driver's mate



Above: **KOREA (1952)** – More prisoners

Below: **RWANDA (1994)** – British Army medics treat a child caught up in civil war



**SUEZ (1956)** – British soldiers dig in at a forward position on the Canal Road at the El Cap Station. Port Said is 35km away



Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge, Bénouville 14970

### Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge

Close to Pegasus Bridge, this café was the first building to be liberated in 1944 by the 6th Airborne Division. It remains unchanged, the walls covered with mementoes, a living monument to the invasion. Monsieur and Madame Georges Gondrée and their two daughters were the first French family to be liberated and the café became a first-aid post. Casualties were brought in and the dining-room was used as an operating theatre. Georges Gondrée dug up ninety-nine bottles of champagne which he had buried in the garden adjacent to the café, to celebrate and give to the sick!

The café is now owned by the Gondrées' daughter, Arlette, who was only 4 at the time of the landings. She is always delighted to tell the history of her special home, which she feels is a shrine to all the veterans. Outside the café is a plaque commemorating its liberation in the last hour of June 5th 1944. Tel: 31.44.62.25.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES TO SOLDIER MAGAZINE ON THEIR  
50TH ANNIVERSARY 1995





Desmond O'Neill, founder photographer

## Cameraman's story a real cliff-hanger

AMONG *Soldier's* founder photographers was Desmond O'Neill, who the previous year as a young cine-cameraman had scooped the world with his pictures of the British D-Day landings.

Sgt O'Neill, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was one of six stills and cine men of No 5 Army Film and Photographic Unit who landed with the 3rd Division on Sword beach.

Soon afterwards he was shot in the arm and was evacuated back to England. His film was collected and stills were released to the press.

Former *Soldier* writer Richard Elley, who accompanied O'Neill on many magazine

assignments, says the D-Day incident did not dampen the young photographer's enthusiasm.

"In 1948 in Gibraltar he wanted to shoot down the runway, so we went to the top of the Rock and, as I held his ankles, he crawled to the edge of the sheer north face and poked his camera over."

O'Neill worked for *Soldier* until 1951. Now, at the age of 72, he is still active as one of Britain's leading society photographers.

Another of the magazine's first photographers was the late Monty Berman, who in later years produced *The Saint* and other drama series for television.

# Ken smoked out a delivery truck

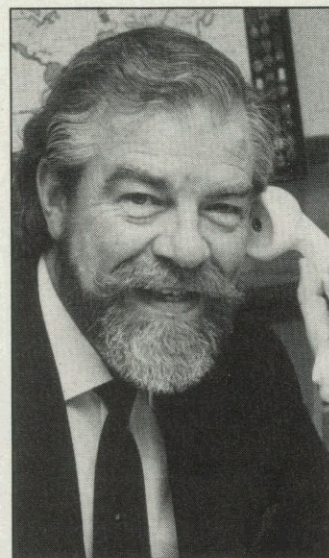
KEN Pemberton-Wood, who was to become *Soldier's* longest-serving staff man, was not in Brussels when the magazine started. He was up at Luneburg "getting on with winning the war", he says with a grin.

While Admiral Doenitz was discussing unconditional surrender with Monty, Ken and other members of the Forward Press Camp were in the adjoining tent reporting on the most momentous event which the magazine was to report in its early days.

Having enlisted in the Royal Artillery and been commissioned in the field from staff sergeant to captain, Ken commanded the No 1 British Army News Unit (of which *Soldier* was part) after joining 2nd Army public relations section at Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

He had worked in public relations, newspapers and magazines before the war and his job now entailed conducting the Press around battlefields (and, he hoped, bringing them all back).

He helped all the press or observer officers such as Richard Dimbleby and Rex North as well as all the war correspondents of the national press through the Ardennes offensive, the Reichswald campaign and the crossing of the Rhine.



Ken Pemberton-Wood, longest serving member of staff

When eventually he joined *Soldier*, first in accounts and then in circulation, he pulled off something of a coup in Hamburg when he got wind of a British Fordson 15cwt truck still in its desert camouflage, languishing in a German private garage.

He approached the owner with a free-issue tin of cigarettes, made an offer the owner did not refuse, and scooped up his bargain transport. Thereafter the truck, with its special V8 engine, was regularly packed with thousands of copies of the magazine to be taken to Hamburg station and on to the many sales points in BAOR, UK and overseas theatres.

Hamburg left an indelible impression on Ken, who recalls many acres of rubble. But he had also been in Coventry with 59 Battery (AA) (TA) when his home town was blitzed.

However, he felt no elation during the final surrender.

"It was all very low-key, because we did not expect the surrender to stick," he said.

Fortunately it did last . . . and so did *Soldier*. Ken went on to become the magazine's advertisement manager, giving 33 highly successful years' service before retiring in 1978.



Charles Tresise recalls the early days of the circulation department

THE setting up of the distribution chain around the 21st Army Group in Europe, let alone collecting the sixpences (the first two issues were free, but thereafter they had to be paid for), took some organising.

I remember getting a call from Copenhagen, recently liberated, asking for supplies for our chaps there.

I asked the French air force if they could fly me there and they promptly supplied a bomber – I think it was a Boston – and I flew up in the rear gunner's seat with a consignment of copies at near zero altitude,

which the French crew thoroughly enjoyed as we skimmed over streams of returning POWs and refugees.

There were similar trips to Vienna and, eventually, Berlin.

A few days before VE Day we entered Hamburg and with a few war correspondents I found the wrecked offices of the big German shipping line Norddeutscher-Lloyd.

In the cellars were thousands of cases of wine. I was wading ankle deep in booze and watched the late Christopher Buckley, correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, selecting priceless bottles of wine and, for lack of a corkscrew, simply knocking the necks off, in order to taste them.

One of the correspondents, Dick McMillan of British United Press, had liberated a magnificent black limousine specially built for Admiral Doenitz [overall commander of German forces since Hitler's death] by the Zeppelin Company.

A plaque on the engine read "In the event of mechanical problems, telephone Freidrickshaven 1 [where they built the Zepelins] and a mechanic will be flown to you anywhere in the world."

The booze that we acquired was used for my stag party the night before my wedding on VE Day to my Belgian girlfriend, Jackie, at Waterloo.

## Proud record of long service

IN THE *Soldier* "years of service" stakes, Ken Pemberton-Wood's 33 years is closely followed by Frank Finch (see Page 29) who was 31 years on the staff and is still contributing work. John Grove was with the magazine for 17 years (1945-62), five as editor.

Photographers have notched up a considerable record. They include Arthur Blundell (25 years – 1950-75), Les Wiggs (22 years – 1964-86), Paul Haley (1974-87), Doug Pratt (1975-85) and current picture editor Terry Champion, who joined in 1985. Editor Ernest

John McGuirk, a loyal *Soldier* reader since the first issue

## On a Copenhagen paper run – by low-level bomber

## John and Len get top marks for loyalty . . .

COMPETING for the record for the longest unbroken readership of the magazine are Mr John D McGuirk, of Reading, and Mr Len Oliver, of Colchester.

Mr McGuirk was 16-year-old member of the 1st Royal Berks Army Cadets when he bought the first issue of *Soldier* from the newly-opened Naafi Club in Mytchett Woods near Aldershot in 1945.

"I enlisted at Reading in October 1946 and was demobbed in April 1969 – and I am still reading *Soldier*," he said.

Mr Oliver, a frequent correspondent to the Letters pages, has also been a loyal reader for 50 years, ever since seeing the first issue while serving near Nijmegen.

Running them all a close race are Mr Percy S Pearson, of Great Yarmouth, and Mr H Merritt, of Godalming, Surrey, who have been continuous subscribers since the autumn of 1945.

● AT the age of 90, former national newspaperman Reg Foster, who worked with *Soldier* in 1945, can lay claim to being the magazine's oldest reader.

One of a group of five ex-Servicemen who pass each copy of the magazine around to one other, he was highly complimentary about *Soldier* when he spoke to us from his home in Pevensey Bay, Sussex, as this issue was being prepared for the printers.

And that was high praise indeed from a man who was never far from the headlines in a long career which included spells on the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Herald*, *News Chronicle*, *Sunday Dispatch* and *Daily Sketch*.

It was while he was working for the *Sketch* in the early 1960s that he was one of two reporters sent to jail for refusing to disclose their sources of information to the Vassall Tribunal (the other was the late Brendan Mullholland).

His three-month sentence was reduced to two for good behaviour – initially in Brixton, then in Ford Open Prison, Sussex, where he spent his time gardening.

During the Second World War as an officer in the Intelligence Corps, Reg worked on the Army publications *Contact* and *SEAC* in the Far East before joining the British Army Newspaper Unit staff who worked alongside the *Soldier* team at Eaton Square in 1945 (see picture, Page 24).

... but  
is Reg  
(90)  
**Soldier's**  
**OLDEST**  
reader?



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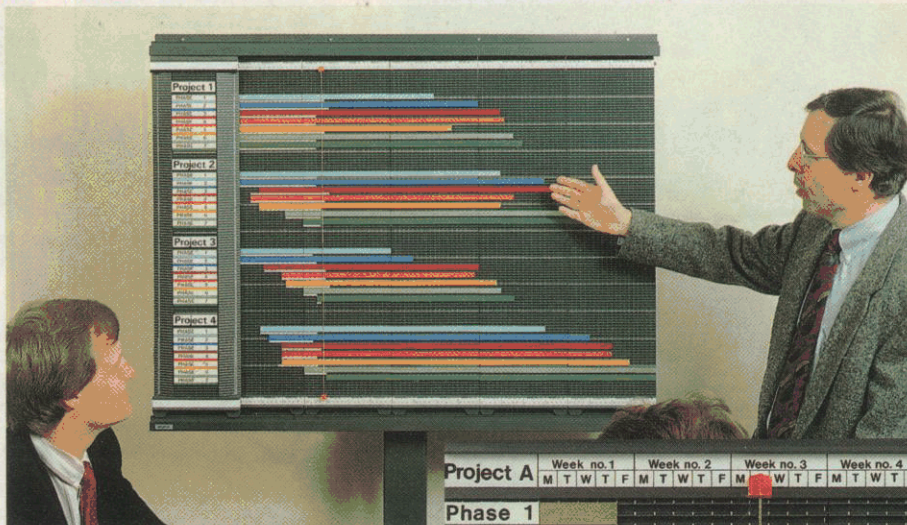
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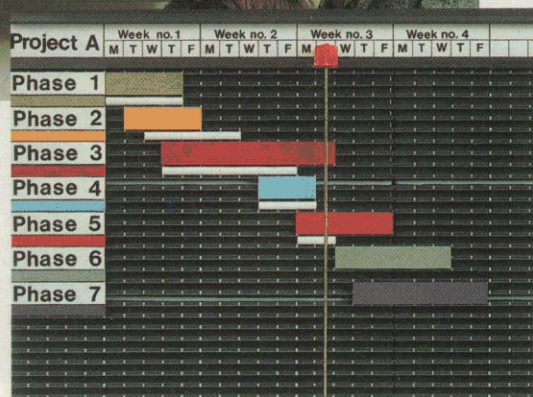


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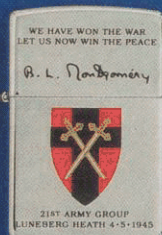
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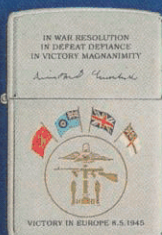
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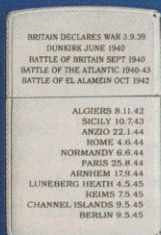
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21st Army Group  
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Combined Operations  
250VECO (Front)



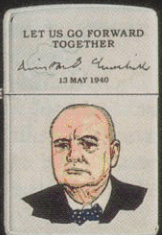
Combined Operations  
250VECO (Reverse)



50th Anniversary  
VE Day 250VEWC



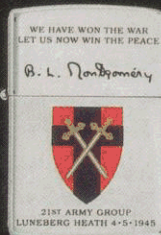
250VEWC



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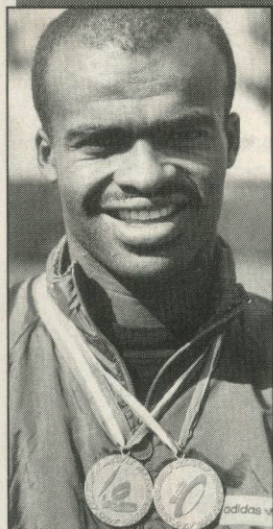
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# Fields of endeavour



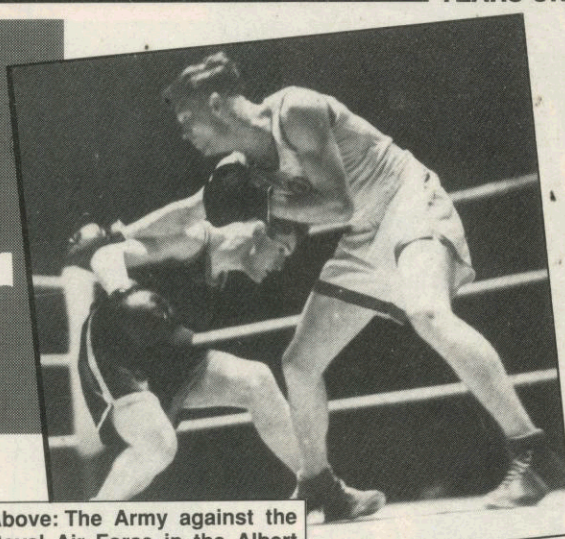
Soldier-athlete: Kriss Akabusi, world class 400m hurdler

FLYING Officer Eddie Hapgood, the England and Arsenal full back, started it. Extracts from his autobiography, *Football Ambassador*, appeared in the first issues of *Soldier* to set the high standard for sports coverage which has remained a feature of the magazine's content.

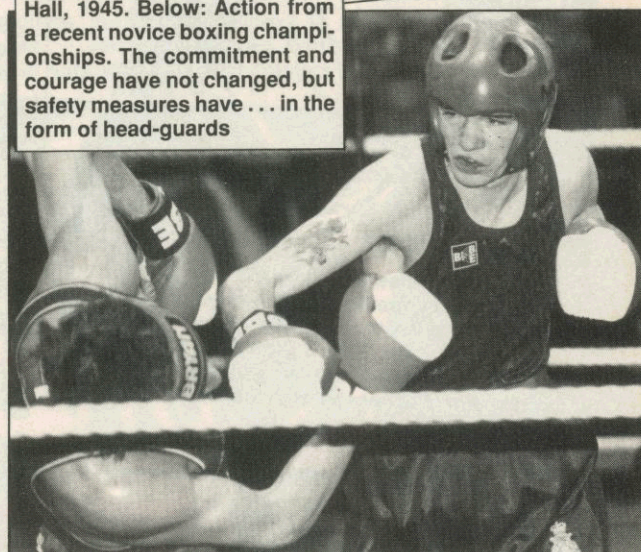
Today's sports pages reflect Army endeavour from corps to Inter-Service and international level. In 1946 the magazine carried news of the British Empire cricket "Test" matches between England and Australia, the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, and the state of teams in the Football League – anything that would interest men deprived of news from home.

CSM Paul Irwin, a *Sunday Express* sports editor before the war, produced stories from the White City athletics track, Lord's, Wembley . . . and the Albert Hall boxing match that pitted the Army against the combined Royal Navy-Royal Air Force. Nothing changes . . . the Army won. The pictures

reproduced on this page are a snapshot of a few of the faces that made the sports news.



Above: The Army against the Royal Air Force in the Albert Hall, 1945. Below: Action from a recent novice boxing championships. The commitment and courage have not changed, but safety measures have . . . in the form of head-guards



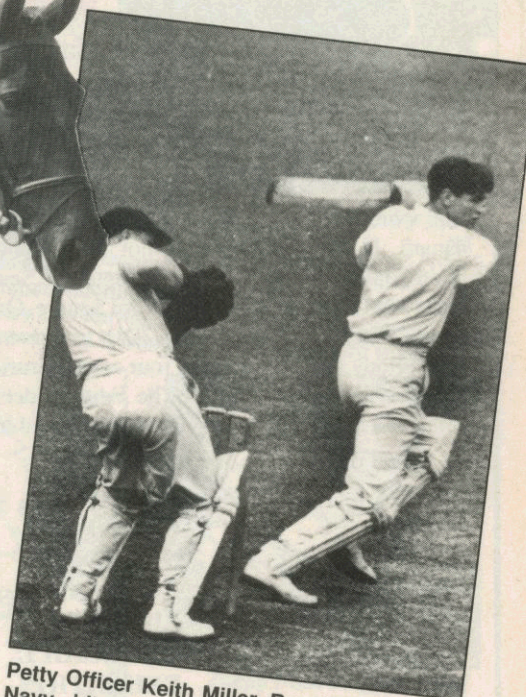
*Soldier* printed this photograph of the goal that won Bolton the Northern Cup in 1945. Soldiers stationed in Europe were keen to read about their favourite teams



Soldier staffmen CSM Paul Irwin (centre) and photographer Sgt Charlie Waterhouse interview the Rev J W J Steele, the Hampshire fast bowler, in the nets at Lord's. Steele, who saw service in France before Dunkirk and later in Tunisia, was preparing for a match involving the 2nd Army



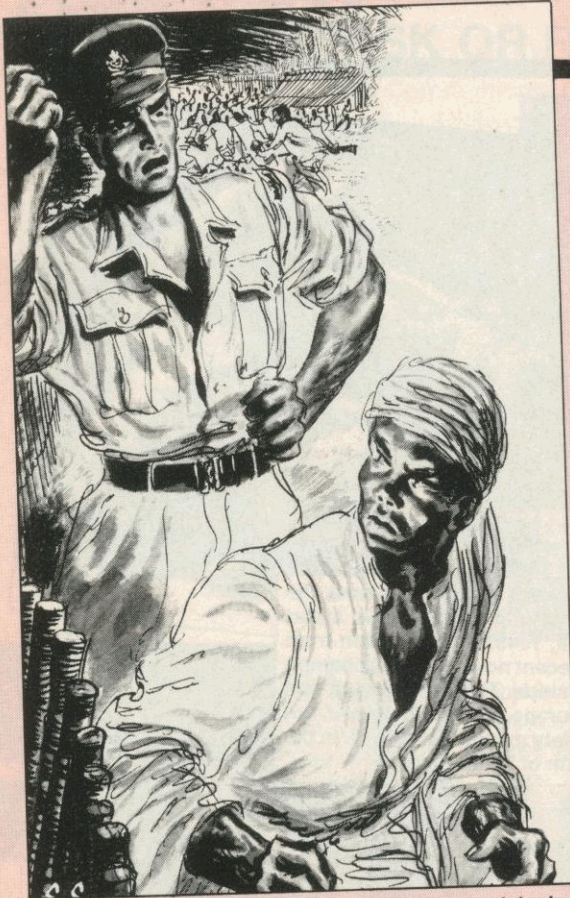
Left: The supreme Olympian: Capt Jim Fox REME, the Army's finest pentathlete, competed in four Olympic Games between 1964 and 1976



Petty Officer Keith Miller, Royal Australian Navy, hits another boundary during his British Empire series century against England at Lord's



A GRAPHIC RECORD



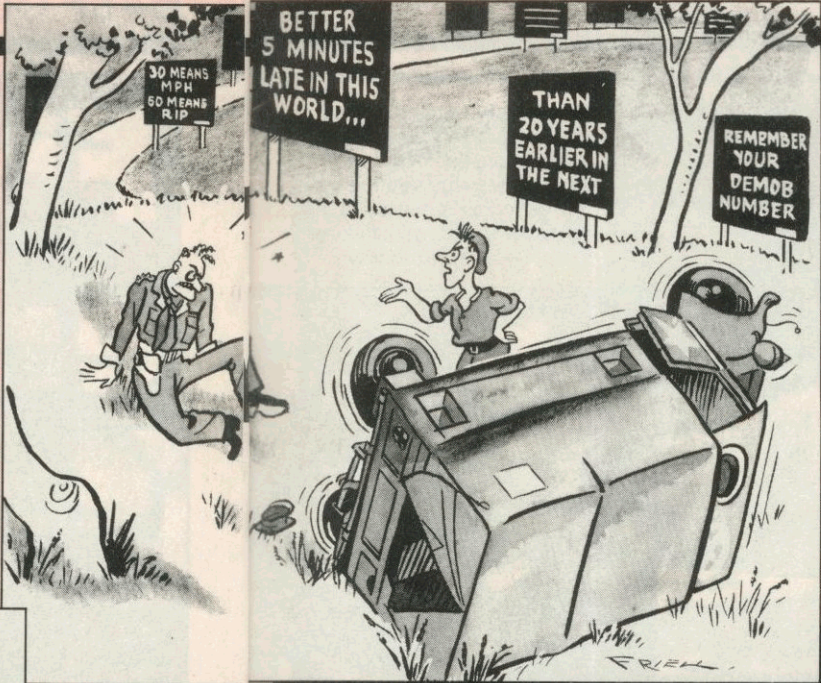
Cpl Eric Earnshaw's illustration for an article in August 1946 on the Scarlet Pimpernel of Bandoeng, Capt F A Clarke of the Int Corps, the man the Indonesians called "The Snake With The Four Heads". Unarmed, he bullied, cajoled and threatened to get hundreds of Europeans and Eurasians out of the Indonesian hell-camps



"An idea of my own, Sir, to keep the fire picquet out of mischief!" – the whimsical humour of Frank Finch. This cartoon appeared in October 1946. Frank's incredible contribution to the magazine spans all of its 50 years. His HOAY competition drawings still attract hundreds of entries



Love is in the air. Detail from a page of cartoons published in June 1946



"Aw, don't be like that, Sir! I just got interested in reading the notices..." – Sgt Jimmy Friell, September 1945, one of the originals with his regular cartoon featuring "Smudger"



"Of course, you boys are lucky to get your leave in the summer." – Jon's famous Two Types enjoy a holiday back home in August 1945. The characters achieved "star" status

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P I D T V U F V S A E N I K T B M K  
C D O R G T T R O O A U I S S W E A  
C I A N W O E W U D N K D S B I I D  
A O H P V T M Q E O O U Y D H C N Q  
R S A A T D L E I F I B R W H B S U  
T P T E L I B E R A T I O N A R M Y  
O R L M D Q W A A Y I J K R E I A G  
O J L D C S W S S E B G J E F T R R  
N W I X C M R P U N I P C P I I S R  
S R H T T E N K L T H P R A M S H J  
S A C N V O P D A C X U V P H A K  
C P R I I O O L E L E Q R S G E L O  
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S E C O N D D W I N S T O N M R X S

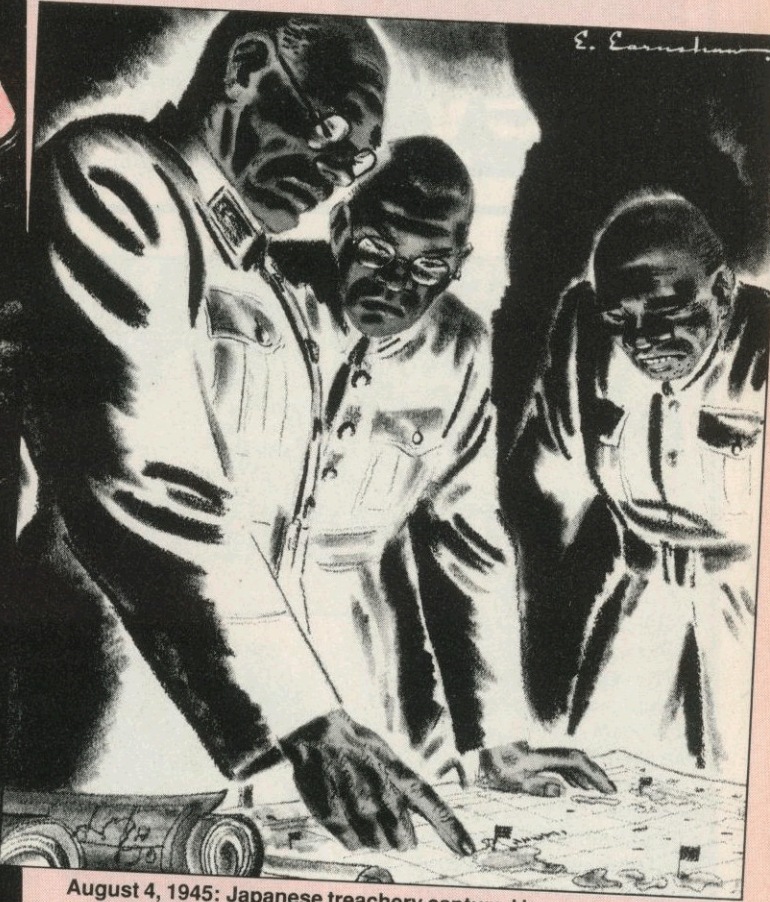
The words listed below can all be found in our word square. If you would prefer not to cut your copy photocopied entries will be acceptable. Send your entry to SOLDIER Magazine Word Square, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU; to arrive no later than Friday April 7. The first four correct entries to be drawn will be the winners. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

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ARMY  
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PIN UP  
WORLD  
SECOND  
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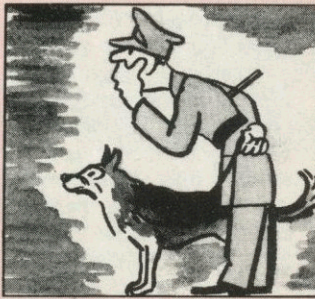
August 18, 1945: Soldier's dramatic front cover records the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War



August 4, 1945: Japanese treachery captured in another dramatic illustration by Eric Earnshaw, whose drawings vividly captured war scenes from Normandy to the Luneburg trials



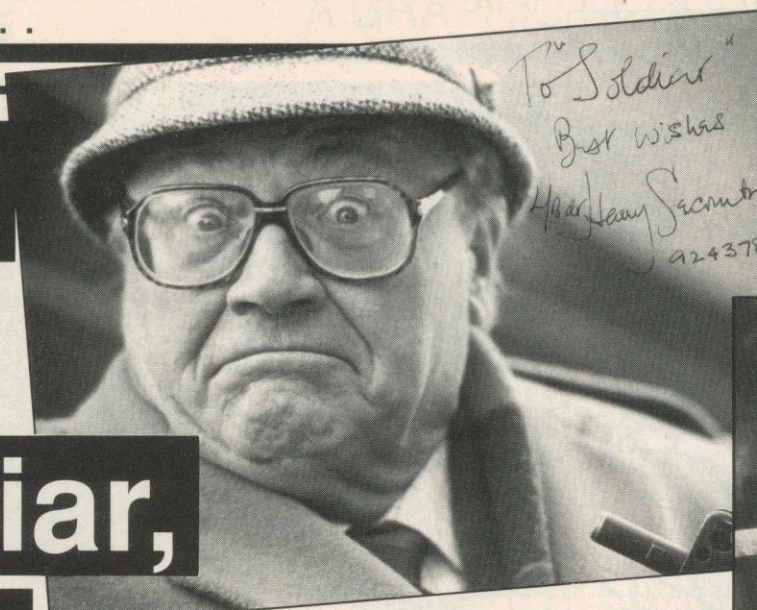
Jungle fun by A F Wiles, a regular in the cartoon pages. This one appeared in July 1949



Detail from Letters Page artwork, 1945-46



# They look familiar, don't they?



OVER the years a host of famous military names have appeared in the pages of *Soldier*, from Montgomery, Wavell and Slim in the early days to Bramall, de la Billière and Rose in more recent times.

Old soldiers who have since achieved fame in other fields have talked about their Service days – and even taken up the pen themselves.

Sir Harry Secombe (above) signed a photo: "To *Soldier*. Best wishes. LBdr Harry Secombe 924378".

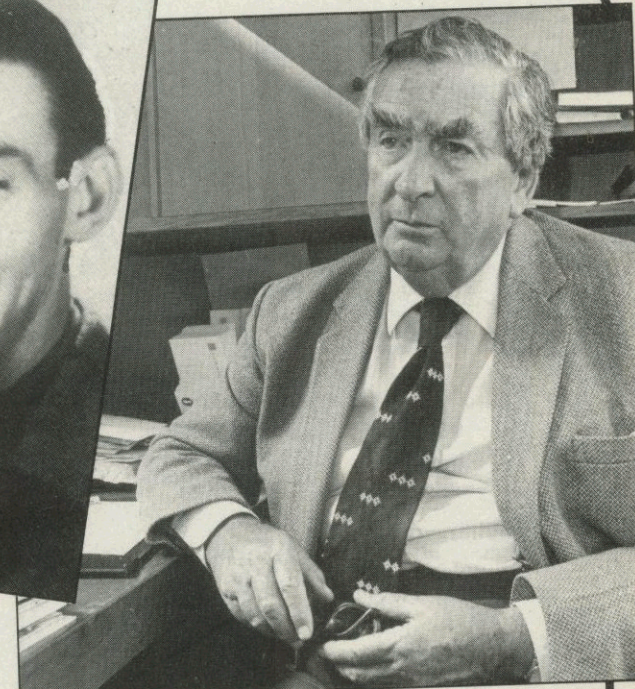
The Rt Hon J Enoch Powell (below), late Royal Warwickshires, revealed in an interview a few years ago that he had asked to be buried in the brigadier's uniform he wore in the Second World War



The late Les Dawson, pictured here leafing through an early bound volume of the magazine in his back garden, submitted an article as a squaddie, but it was not used. Later, in the 1970s, we saw the error of our ways and published a hilarious piece by him, complete with cartoons



Spike Milligan talked openly about his horrific experiences as a gunner in the Italian campaign



Lord (Denis) Healey told readers of the British Army Magazine of his time as a beachmaster at Anzio in the rank of major and later as a battling politician at Westminster

## Anne, symbol of *Soldier's* independence

NO history of *Soldier* Magazine would be complete without saluting the significant part played for 17 years by Anne Armstrong MBE.

Her famous column was part of a tireless and hugely successful personal campaign to improve the lot of Service men and women and their families, particularly those down on their luck.

With her inimitable crusading zeal she gained a formidable reputation for fearless independence, taking on all-comers and battling until she got a result. She was once described as "a peptic ulcer in the belly of the Ministry of Defence".

Anne, nom-de-plume of Mrs Jacqueline Mayo, offered a fortnightly page or two of vital, no-non-



sense advice to readers on a wide range of subjects from the mid-70s until her untimely death in May, 1993.

Almost two years on, she is still greatly missed by soldiers, their wives and families... and by *Soldier*.

# THEN AND NOW

How technology has changed over 50 years

IN battered Hamburg the building in which they produced early issues of *Soldier*

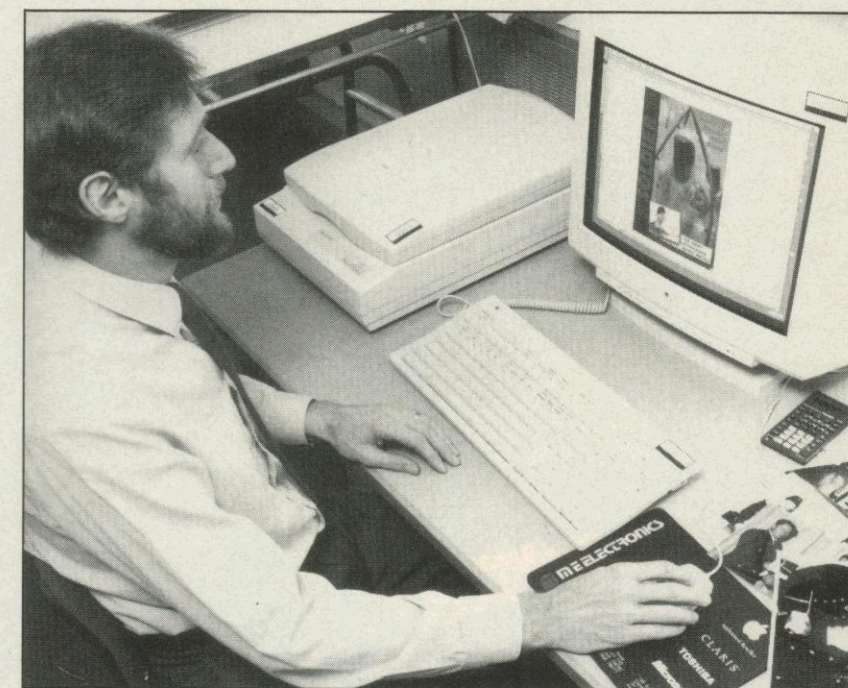
was largely open to the elements, cut through by a falling bomb. By the time the icy

winter of 1945 set in the German printing staff would be wrapped up against the cold

but when Sgt Silverside took the picture (below left) of a compositor making-up a page it was still September. This man and his colleagues had until recently produced Goebbels's colour magazine *Signal* in the same building, on some of the best equipment in Europe.

The hot-metal printing process was then the norm. Operators working on huge American Intertype machines set copy typed on to paper by the *Soldier* journalists.

Compositors following sub-editors' and artists' layouts then slotted the lead type and photographic plates into page forms and an impression was made which was turned into plates ready for printing. German printers producing a mag-



azine in English rarely posed a problem. *Soldier* employed bilingual "go-betweens" and there were few errors.

Fifty years on, much of *Soldier's* production is carried out with the benefit of state-of-the-art computer technology. Text and headlines keyed in by editorial staff are called-up on

screens, where page layouts are designed.

The final page images, complete with scanned-in pictures, are then copied on to floppy disks and sent to the printers.

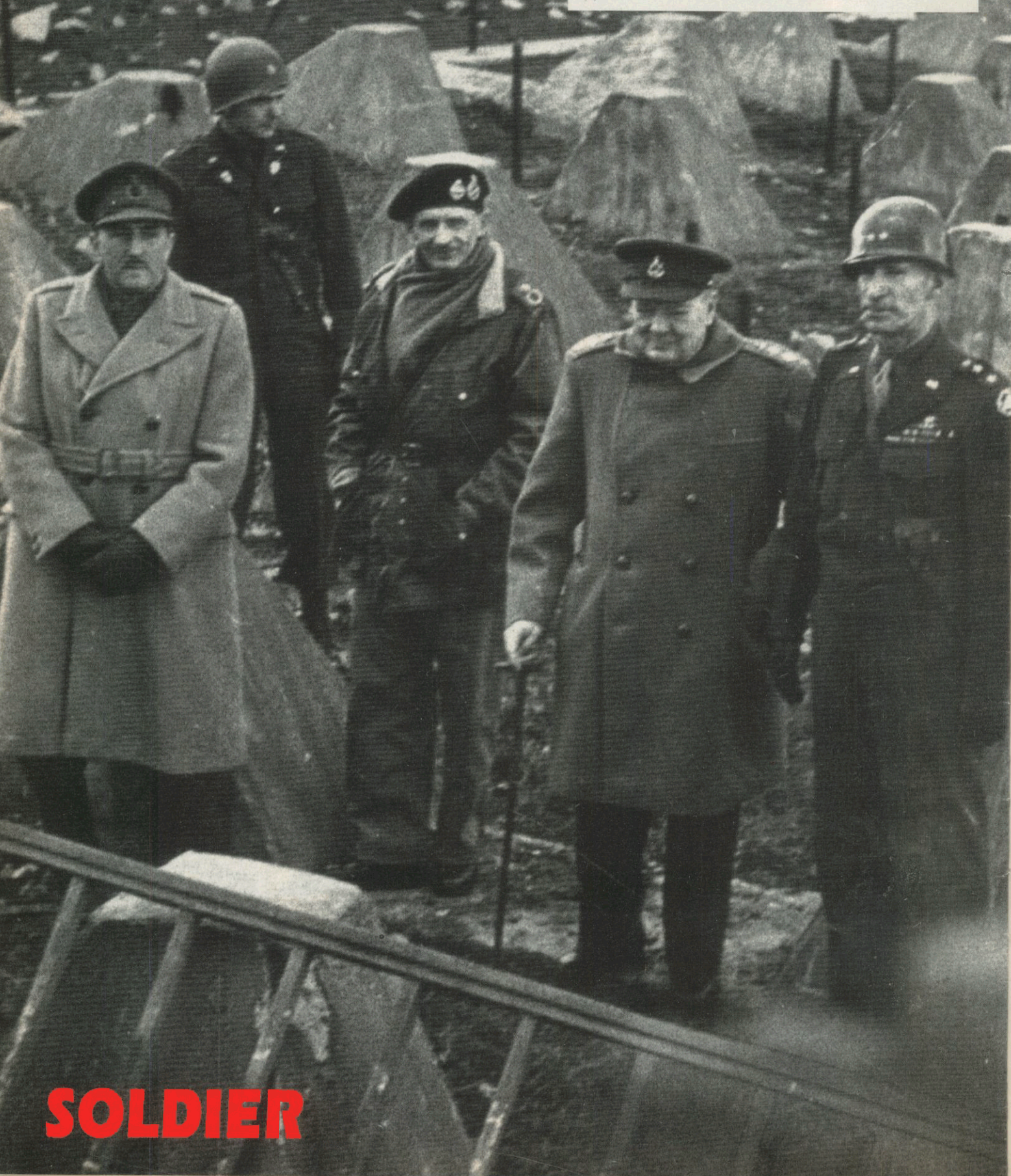
In our 1995 picture (above) *Soldier* art editor Les Gwyer designs a colour front cover on-screen.



Picture: Imperial War Museum



Fd Marshal Montgomery and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, whose belief in troop information led to the creation of *Soldier*, pictured looking at Dragon's Teeth on the Siegfried Line during a visit to the Front. On the left is Fd Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, on the right Gen Simpson, US Army. Churchill spoke to men of the 51st (Highland) Division, chalked a message – "Hitler – personally" – on a 240mm shell, and fired it across the Rhine at retreating Germans. This picture appeared in the first edition of *Soldier*.



**SOLDIER**



# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 607

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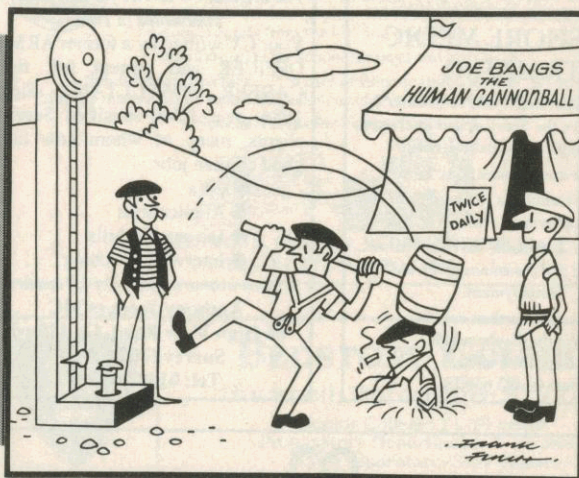
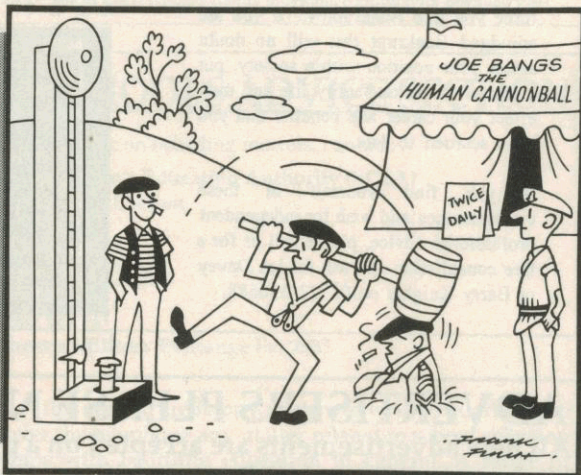
The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 607, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by April 7. Do not include anything else

in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 1 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:



Competition No 604 (February 6 issue): Congratulations to WO2 M Blake, 1st Bty, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill, Salisbury, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs L Williams, of Burry Port, Dyfed, and Russell King, of Barnstaple, Devon.



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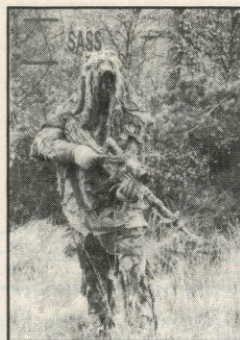
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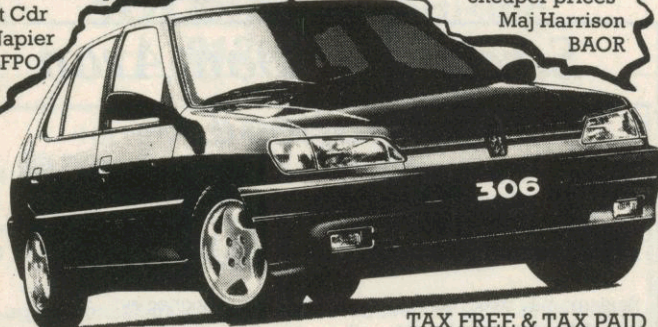
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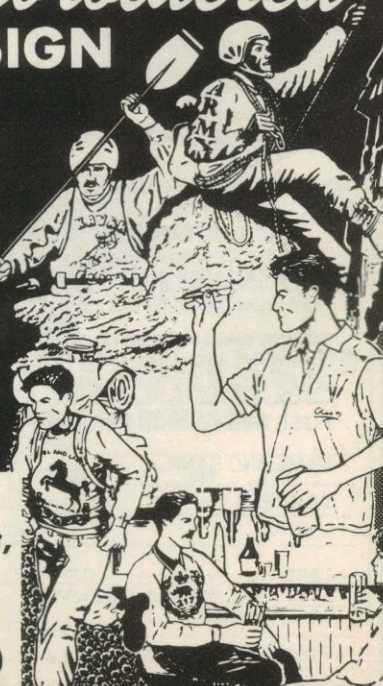
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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

**FEBRUARY 18, 1995**

**Five-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £840 each)** Capt S C Bailey, 1 RGBW, Catterick; Maj C R Clarke, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; SSgt M R Greenberry, ATR Pirbright; Capt J A Inglis, Military Works Force, Chilwell; LCpl R Thompson, HQ TSG(G), BFPO 16.

**17-way tie for sixth prize (19 goals, £17.65 each)** Capt D G Barrington, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down; Cpl A Breen, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36; Spr M R Chalmers, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; SSgt G M D Fost, 7 Tpt Regt RLC; Maj M G Hobday, HQ UKLF, Wilton; Pte C Hutton, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30; Sgt S A Lane, 2 LI, BFPO 16; WO1 C Miller, SEE, Arborfield; Capt S R Neath, 1 DWR, Bulford; Maj D S Raleigh, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Col M J N Richards, RHQ RA, Woolwich; LCpl J R D Roche, QRL, BFPO 36; Tpr P J Rowe, QDG, BFPO 16; Cpl M C Spencer, HQ RSME, Chatham; Lt Col R M

McQ Sykes, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Sgt M R Twigge, 161 Army Youth Team, Chilwell; Maj D V Watson, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

**FEBRUARY 25, 1995**

**First prize (22 goals, £2,000)** Cpl J E Lynn, BFPO 802.

**Two-way tie for second prize (21 goals, £750 each)** Cpl M Armstrong, 5 Regt AAC, BFPO 808; Lt G P J Buxton, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regt, Bulford.

**Nine-way tie for fourth prize (20 goals, £111.11 each)** Maj B J Bathurst, 1 WG, Tern Hill; Sgt P B Bishop, Camp Comdt (AD), London; Sgt R J Cummings, 1 WFR LAD REME, Tidworth; Sgt R W Hannah, HQ Episkopi Garrison, BFPO 53; Capt G H Hume, 259 Signal Sqn, BFPO 53; Tpr A J Le Gallais, HCR, Windsor; SSgt N Paton, ATDU, Bovington; SSgt I Pierce, BFPO 809; Capt N A Young, BFPO 809.

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D3



## Listening with mother . . . to the Z code

WITH Mr Morgan's interest in wireless telegraphy procedure (Letters, January 23), I wonder if the Z code, plus a few abbreviations as used between a mobile Golden Arrow high-speed wireless section and its mother "P" station

at GHQ would be of use to him.

ZOK - Conditions good for; ZNG - Conditions no good.

With morse punched tapes running fast through auto heads, bad conditions resulted in BK - Break your transmis-

sion, followed by ZBY - Return tape back a yard. If bad conditions persisted, ZST - Transmit slips (taped messages) twice.

As conditions improved it would be ZSO - Transmit slips once. Others were GA - Go

ahead; TFC - Messages; NW - Now; ERE - Here; and INT - Interrogate.

In good conditions, these stations could pass between them up to 64,000 groups in a 24-hour period. - **R W Green (ex-Sig, 26 "M"), Norwich.**

## Our paver has style

YOUR article on Berril Valley (February 20) included a photograph of the last remaining BK paver in the Army.

This, I am glad to say, is not true. As I write, Plant Troop, 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE is busy using the Army's other last remaining BK95 paver!

"What!" I hear you cry, "Another last remaining paver?" As our picture shows, it certainly does exist and you will agree that due to local modifications, ours is the more stylish of the two. - **Lt S M Massetti RE, Plant Troop Commander, 62 Cyprus Spt Sqn RE, BFPO 58.**



All mod cons - the other "last remaining" paver at work in Cyprus

### Respect for the Colours

AS an ex-RSM and serving soldier of some 34 years, it hurt to see the Regimental Colours being handed over in such a sloppy way (February 20, Page 10). Colours should always be treated with respect and handed over in the traditional manner. Please don't let that tradition go, we are already losing too many. - **Traditionalist** (name and address supplied).

● The occasion was not a formal handing over of Colours. The picture was posed only to mark a change of command at 5/8 Kings. - **Editor**

## Die Hards and guns of Nery

A BOOK review on The Royal Hussars (February 6), mentioned the capture of guns at Nery in 1914.

In books of my regiment (Die Hards) in the 1914-18 war, the 1st Battalion reported to the Cavalry Brigade and attacked the guns. D Company, with two Vickers, drove off the enemy, went in with bayonet and captured the guns.

The Hussars came in to hitch their horses to drag the guns back to our lines. - **Eddie Byatt (ex-8th Middlesex), Hayes, Mddx.**

## Kohima Memorial was designed by a sapper

I WAS interested to read the reference to the Kohima Memorial (Soldier to Soldier, February 6). In late 1944 or early 1945 the Indian EME

magazine, *IEME Notes*, published details of the memorial.

While it did not record the acquisition nor transporting of the stone, it did quote the well-

known text and mentioned that the memorial was designed by Lt J W Ferrie RE.

Construction began in September 1944 and was nearly complete by the time of the report.

Most of the engraving was carried out by Cfn M Cresswell REME, assisted by two gunners, W Copeland and I W Jones. I wonder if any of them are still around. - **B S Baxter, Deputy Curator, REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9LN.**

## Admit it, Suez was an Active post

IF THERE is nothing on the files regarding the decision not to award a General Service medal to Suez veterans, why doesn't the Government make a decision to recognise the troops who served there in 1951-54 for Active Service.

Men served in the Zone for three years, and National Servicemen for up to 18 months. I was there for two years.

Fifty-four troops were killed and 69 wounded, so it was certainly an Active Service posting from Port Said to Suez. I

enclose a propaganda leaflet (above left) scattered in the zone at the time.

It is shameful that the Suez veterans are not recognised for service to their country. - **T Radford (ex-1 Cheshire), Birkenhead, Merseyside.**



**STEPHEN** Hastings's autobiography, *The Drums of Memory*, is a fast-moving and detailed story of a man who has had the good fortune to enjoy what could be described as a favoured existence – that of soldier, secret agent and politician.

The son of BBC war reporter Lewis MacDonald Hastings, he was educated at Eton, entered Sandhurst in 1939 and joined the Scots Guards. From then on his life

## A life of excitement

was all-action, especially with the SAS in the Western Desert and the Special Operations Executive in Europe.

When his time came to leave the Army he tried the BBC, but a personality clash with the interviewer led to him turning them down and he joined the Secret Service instead for 12 years to wage

war against the KGB. This took him to Finland, France, Cyprus and many other political hot-spots around the world.

It seems almost natural that he should have become a Tory MP, being elected for Mid-Bedfordshire in November 1960 and remaining in the House for the next 23 years.

His description of his initial interview with the local Conservatives makes amusing reading: "What is your rank?" asked a brigadier. "About brigadier, Brigadier," he replied. "And what about fox hunting?" asked another. He scored ten for his answer, he says.

An excellent read. – JM

**The Drums of Memory** by Stephen Hastings. Leo Cooper, £21.50.

# Dragons mauled at Arnhem

REGIMENTAL histories on the whole interest mainly those who served in the unit, historians and those with a propensity for all things military.

So it makes a change to pick up a book confined to the wartime experiences of a solitary battalion – in this case the 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment – and not one that tells the whole regimental story from the year dot.

Such a book is *When Dragons Flew*, a reference to the cap-

badge which depicts a Chinese Dragon awarded to the regiment for service in China in 1841. But this book, by a trio of authors, relates the 1st Battalion's experiences from 1939 to 1945, especially their ten days in the battle for Arnhem.

One author, Canon Alan Green, who became a priest after the war, brings a personal view of the battle as he commanded a platoon in the thick of the fighting, was wounded five times and taken prisoner.

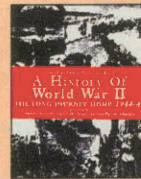
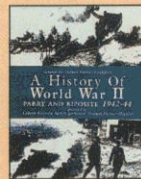
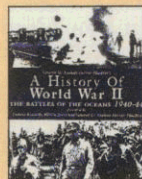
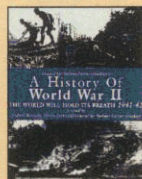
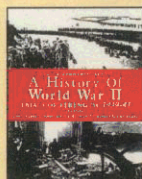
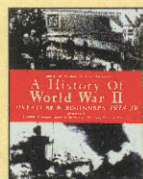
Their losses were high, more than any other battalion in the battle, say the authors, but they managed to evacuate more than any other unit, emerging from the battle as a battalion.

But there could not have been many left as 115 of the 775 other ranks had been killed and 391 captured, many of whom were wounded.

Of the officers, only ten returned across the Rhine with 27 captured, many of them wounded, and ten killed.

This book has more than 200 fine photographs and has been written not just by historians, but includes the first-hand recollections of many of the survivors of this ill-conceived battle scheme which developed into one of the most savage battles of the war. – JM

**When Dragons Flew** By Stuart Eastwood, Charles Gray and Alan Green. Available from The Border Regiment Museum, The Castle, Carlisle. £19.95.



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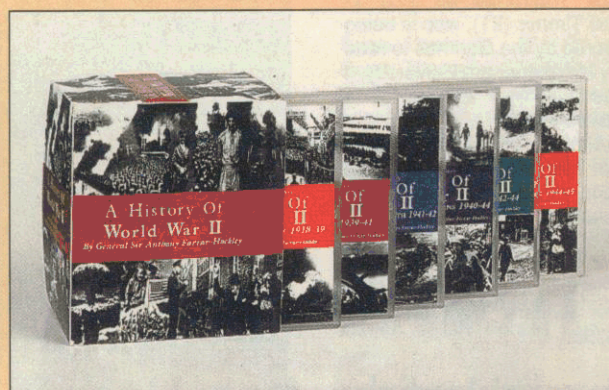
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**Imperial War Museum**

**Until August 31:** D-Day to Victory exhibition.

**From March:** London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

**From April:** Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

**May 4-6:** 1940s fashion shows.

**From August:** Victory in the Far East display.

**VE Day - MAY**

6: Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

6: VE Day Freedom parade of

**50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

Camberley by Royal Logistic Corps.

6-8: Public event activities, Hyde Park.

7: Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

7 or 8: Services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

7-8: Belsay Hall, Northumberland, English Heritage public events.

8: VE night concert, Hyde Park.

8: Dover Castle salute to victory, English Heritage's main VE Day event

27-29: Victory Show rally by Mili-

tary Vehicle Trust, Southsea Common (tel 01489 572582).

28: Battle Abbey, E Sussex, English Heritage public events.

**JUNE**

24-25: Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

**VJ Day - AUGUST**

12-19: VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

19: Open-air service in central London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework

display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

**SEPTEMBER**

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

● Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

Wood has since been asked to tutor three more Belfast Girl Guides due to provide a Guard of Honour for Ulster's Guide Commissioner.

**Music legacy perpetuated**

A HUGE collection of military band memorabilia accumulated over 27 years by the late Jerome Gatehouse of Newport, Gwent, is to live on in his memory.

The Jerome Gatehouse Collection - thousands of photographs, programmes and recordings of bands and concerts from all over the world - has been given to the Ogilby Trust in Winchester.

A fund appeal launched by his widow, Anne, to cover essential expenses and upkeep, has raised almost £600.

Donations, in the form of items or money, may be sent to Col Peter Walton, Army Museums Ogilby Trust, 2 St Thomas Centre, 20 Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EF. Cheques should be made payable to the Jerome Gatehouse Collection.

**Les's last duty**

LT COL (QM) Les Wilson's final duty after 48 years' full-time service to Queen and country was to turn the page of the Book of Remembrance in the Warriors' Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral.

Col Wilson was retiring on his 65th birthday. He enlisted in the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1947, rose through the ranks, and, as a retired officer, was responsible for setting up the Queen's Regiment's superb museum in Dover Castle.

**PILGRIMAGE**

A pilgrimage to 12th Bn, Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne) glider landing sites and cemeteries in Belgium and Holland is planned for June 6-12. All veterans are welcome. Details available from Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road Exton, near Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ.

**SOLDIER to Soldier****Running for the Gurkhas**

GURKHA welfare funds will benefit from every weary step 55-year-old ex-soldier Howard Johnston takes in the London Marathon on April 2.

Not that he won't know the way... it will be his seventh London Marathon and his 17th over the classic distance.

Howard, now with the Royal Regiment of Wales TA after Regular service with the Welsh Regiment, hopes to do better than the £1,400 he raised last year for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. He also wants to arrange a reunion of Junior Leaders from IJL Plymouth, where he trained in 1956.

On both counts he can be contacted on 01222 891274.

Also pounding the streets of London on behalf of the Gurkha Welfare Trust will be 2nd Lt Charles Timmis (21), who is being sponsored by the Gurkhas to read history at Nottingham University. It will be his first attempt at a marathon.

Charles has trekked in Nepal to see for himself how land grants provided by the Trust help ex-Gurkhas and their families return to one of the world's poorest countries.

● Pledges may be made to the Gurkha Welfare Trust on 0171 218-4395.

**Special holiday from Hosanna**

NOMINATIONS for places for the first group to take a week's holiday in France, with the help of the newly-formed Joint Service Hosanna Housing Trust family group, are being taken. Volunteer helpers, on a one-to-one basis, for the nominees are also required.

The group, aimed at helping all male and female ex-Service personnel with special needs, will travel to Tarbes in September. Costs will be £400 for nominees and helpers alike.

Replies, by April 1, to Ann McDonald, JSHTT Secretary, 37 Barn Park Road, Pevensey, Plymouth PL3 4LP.

**Top canine Cobb retires with a stripe**

ONE OF the Army's top Northern Ireland search dogs has been promoted - just days before retiring. Dog LCpl Cobb (pictured right) received his first, and last, stripe from the Duke of York.

Cobb, a black Labrador, unearthed thousands of pounds of explosives during his Service career.

In 1991, an Army patrol spotted a command wire, but search teams were unable to locate a device. Cobb was sent in and soon pinpointed 1,200lb of home-made explosive. Later, his discovery of a balaclava and gloves proved a crucial link between suspects and an armed robbery at Lurgan.

After the IRA cease-fire, Cobb sniffed out a terrorist hide during a routine search of open



fields. From it, 600lb of explosive were recovered in one of the most significant finds in the area for some time. Cobb was given to the Army by a family in England and served most of his career in the border counties of Armagh and Tyrone, first with the UDR and then 3 R Irish.

**Shield of gratitude**

KENT Yeomanry Regimental Association presented a copy of its regimental shield to Canterbury's Lord Mayor, Cllr Bill Hornsby, as a personal token of thanks for the repairs and refurbishment which the council carried out to the regiment's memorial and surrounding garden in the city's high street.

**RSM's good guide to drill**

WHEN SCOTS-born Regimental Sergeant Major Kevin Wood joined the Royal Irish Regiment, he didn't expect his first drill parade to involve Girl Guides.

The RSM, who has just moved to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment from The Highlanders, was asked to polish the girls' performance before they paraded their Colours at a service in St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Mr Wood put the girls through their paces at the Regimental Drill Hall in Portadown. "They were very keen and quick to learn," he said.

The girls, Helen McClean, Zena McConnell and Andrea Foreman, represented Northern Ireland's Girl Guides at a special "Thinking Day" service commemorating Sir Baden and Lady Powell. RSM

**REUNIONS**

**HQ Sqn, 39th (City of London) Sig Regt (V):** As a result of restructuring, HQ Sqn is due to disband on March 31 as the regiment relocates to the Bristol area. All past members invited to a farewell party on March 11 in Chelsea, London. Details from HQ Sqn, 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V), Mercury House, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, London SW3 4SB (tel 0171-414 5483).

**Klagenfurt 1945-95:** Reunion April 18-30 for all Army personnel who served in the areas Trieste, Udine, Venice, Tarvisio, Klagenfurt, including following years to 1950. Details (please enclose sae) from G Swain, National Sec, Italy Star Association, 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 5EN.

**ACC Association:** Annual general meeting takes place at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot on March 24. All ex-corps members welcome.

**1st Reconnaissance Regiment:** Annual reunion dinner, The Crown, Stamford, Lincs, April 22, followed by memorial service at All Saints, Stamford on April 23. Details from Brig E W Anstey, Ardnagag, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0EP (tel 01350 727313).

**RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club:** Annual dinner-reunion on May 6 at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot. Details from WO1 (RSM) M G McLennan RAMC, AMS Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

**16 Regiment RA:** All ranks reunion, May 6 at Scunthorpe. Details from N Murray (tel 01652 640348 or York Mil 8455). Final date for returns March 25.

**201 RCZ Workshop REME(V):** 24th annual reunion at The Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warks, May 12-13. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool LS22 5NP (tel 051 928 4493).

**APTC Association (York Branch):** Annual dinner at Imphal Barracks, York, May 19. Details from Hon Sec, Capt D Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70

6BA (tel 01226 207046).

**1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Association:** Reunion buffet lunch in the Victory Services Club, London on May 21. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel 01222 227611 ext 8213).

**Cavalry Sunday:** Annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park on May 21, the 71st anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Cavalry Memorial.

**Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth:** First reunion for past Junior Leaders (including Permanent Staff) who served at Plumer Barracks, Crownhill, Plymouth. To be held on May 26. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

**Motor cycle despatch riders:** Reunion on June 17-18 to coincide with South Devon Railway Trust "Railway at War" weekend, Buckfastleigh. Details from W A Wright, 31 Hillcroft Crescent, Oxhey, Watford WD1 4PB (tel 01923 229962).

**Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven 1947-72:** The Wilhelmshaven Association is planning a reunion in June for ex-pupils and staff. Details and newsletter from Mrs Hilary Seaborn, 37 Daking Avenue, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5QA (tel 01787 210177).

**El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Third reunion planned for June. Presenters, controllers, librarians, technicians and listeners sought. Contact John Moir on 01705 595489.

**7 Transport Regiment RLC:** Regimental weekend Bielefeld-Sennelager, June 16-18. Details from (UK) Capt P B Widdows, 19 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9LT, or (Germany) Maj P A Duncan, 7 Transport Regiment, Catterick Barracks, BFPO 39.

**Combined Services Association:** Combined drumhead service and reunion, August 20, Queen's Park, Victoria Avenue,

Crewe. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel 01270 257092).

**40th Regiment Royal Artillery:** Lowland Gunners regimental reunion, August 26-28 in Edinburgh. All past and present members welcome. Details from WO2 (BSM) K G Doyle, Tac Ops, 40th Regiment RA, Girdwood Roulement Battalion, BFPO 806 (tel 01232 429507).

**15th (Isle of Man) Light AA Regiment Royal Artillery (TA) OCA:** Special reunion planned in Douglas, Isle of Man, starting on August 31. Details from E L Kissack, Secretary OCA, 5 Fort William, Douglas, Isle of Man (tel 0624 623069).

**219 Signal Squadron (Tripoli), 235 Signal Squadron (Malta), anyone serving at Prinn Barracks (Tripoli) 1958-65:** Second reunion, September 8-9 at Loughborough. Details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

**Edinburgh University OTC:** Reunion planned for September 9. Details from Maureen Clowe, Development and Alumni Services Office, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL (tel 0131-650 2234, fax 0131 650 2239).

**976 Squad Royal Marines:** Second reunion, September 16, Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth. Also 497 Squad. Details from L E P Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (tel 01255 434784).

**RAPC Apprentice College:** 33rd anniversary reunion for staff and ex-apprentices, London, September 22. Details from RAO, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London SW1 7SE (tel 0171-414 2549).

**Black Cats, 56 Div Sigs (to 1961) OCA and successor regts/sqns:** Former members invited to contact Sam Elliott, secretary, 24 Dymchurch Close, Polegate, E Sussex BN26 6ND (tel 01323 483132) for membership details. Next dinner on November 24.

**DIARY****MARCH**

15: Soldier 50th anniversary exhibition opens at the National Army Museum. Admission free.

**APRIL**

28-30: The Aldershot Show, Rushmoor Arena (tel 01252 347152 or 347009).

**MAY**

21: Cavalry Sunday annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park. Salute to be taken by the Queen.

**JUNE**

11: British Mule Society's Mule Day at Defence Animal Centre, Merton Mowbray.

**JULY**

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

**SEARCHLINE**

**9 Armoured Workshop REME TA 1947-57,** late of Cromwell Camp, Baskin Lane, Chilwell. Past members sought for quarterly meetings, annual dinner, visits. Details from M J Coates, 25 Denewood Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 3EU (tel 01602 282847).

Mr Alf Avison is arranging a visit to **Fayid, Egypt** this year including a week in Cairo and visits to the camps in the Canal Zone. He wishes to contact anyone who served in Fayid in 1950-55, especially GHQ Fayid. Replies to PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincs PE11 3NS.

**651 Air OP Squadron, including flights:** Proposed reunion-association. Contact Nigel Driver, 41 Laburnum Road, Sandy, Beds SG19 1HG (tel 01767 682451). Please enclose sae.

Brian Robinson, 261 Thornaby Road, Thornaby, Cleveland TS17 8PD (tel 01642 614622) wishes to hear from ex-1st Royal Dragoons and ex-RAMC, BMH Fayid, who served in Suez area, 1950-52.

David Williamson, PO Box 1886, Toowoomba 4350, Australia wishes to contact **Bernard Thomas "Nick" Nicholas**, late 2 Green Howards, with whom he served in UN Forces Cyprus in 1981.

**MILITARIA**

**Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent:** W G Allen, Trelone, 13 Poplar Lane, Lydd, Kent TN29 9LA is preparing an article on the long and friendly association between the Army and the townspeople of Lydd and would like to hear from soldiers who have stories of their time in the area.



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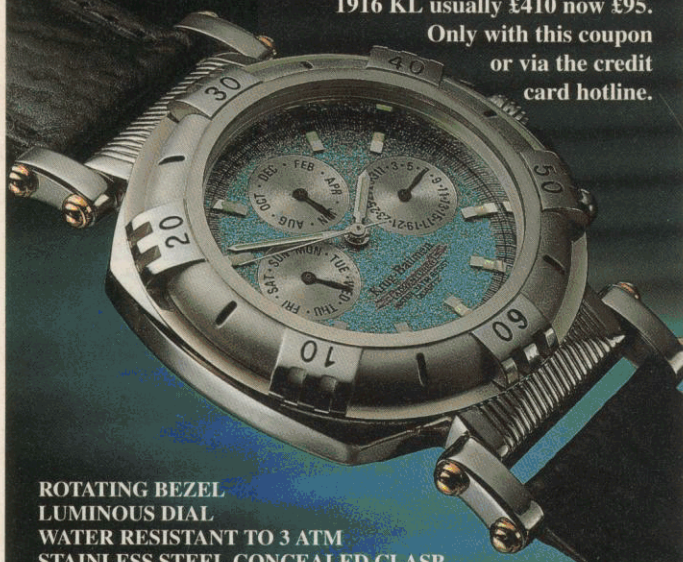
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## England flanker Tim makes their day

RUGBY

SPORT



☆ Lt Tim Rodber, a member of England's mighty back row, pauses for a photograph while passing on tips to potential Irish caps of the future.

☆ Tim, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, took time away from his busy schedule to visit colleagues serving in Northern Ireland.

☆ He also popped along to schools at Cookstown and Dungannon to put these schoolboy rugby players through their paces.

☆ The 6ft 6in flanker, whose pace, strength and physical presence have inspired England's back row this season, won his 13th cap against Wales in Cardiff on February 18, helping the side to take another step towards the Grand Slam.

☆ The Green Howards are currently on a six-month tour of Northern Ireland and are based in east Tyrone.

## Naafi backs refs

NAAFI Financial Services have agreed to sponsor rugby referees from all three Services. The money will be used to promote training schemes to develop the potential of Service referees so that they have a chance of gaining recognition at national level.

Picture: Mobile News Team HQNI

# Signs good for Twickers

THE Army began cautiously against Cambridge University XV but were clearly ring-rusty and determined, initially, to keep things tight, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The students on the other hand, led by Richard Dix, surely an England fly half of the future, ran everything with great expectations on a beautiful pitch at Grange Road.

The Light Blue frenzy was short-lived in the face of profound Army tackling, and their confrontation with the Army "thin red line" returned the match to its fundamentals.

Indeed, the Army pack absorbed the students' flamboyance in its stride, and superior, bludgeoning power laid the foundation for an 8-3 advantage at the break.

This 1995 pack is very mobile and only marginally short of ballast. The back row of Pete Curtis (2 Sig Regt), Chris Rushworth (22 Regt

RA) and the evergreen Gary Knight (DWR) worked in close harmony in initiating attacks and supporting the midfield.

Hooker Julian Brammer (RE), the skipper for a second year, is growing in stature, while Rob Hunter, another sapper, is developing into an aggressive all-round athlete.

Scrum half Simon Pinder, another recycled Duke, blends well with the back row.

Full back Rob Abernethy (RGR), Brian Johnson (7 Sig Regt), Howard Graham and Rushworth scored tries in a purple passage in the third quarter, enabling the Army to win by 37 points to 13, the largest margin for years.

With pacey backs hungry for the ball, this is an exciting Army XV and the signs are good for the Willis Corroon (AFFAS) Inter-Services championship at Twickenham, against the Navy on April 1 and the RAF on April 12.

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# Army final blown away

The Army 0, Sussex 2

STRONG wind and an uneven surface at Aldershot Military Stadium made ball control difficult for both the Army and Sussex in their group decider for the finals of the South West Counties Championship, writes **Derrick Bly**.

After a blank first half, Sussex looked the more likely to score in the second period and SSgt Nigel Wiscombe twice had to spread himself to save dangerous situations.

With ten minutes remaining Sig Joe Collins, who had a

superb game, was harshly adjudged to have brought down a Sussex player. Wiscombe saved the penalty but could do nothing when Sussex struck twice in the 89th minute to book their passage to their second consecutive SWC final.

Sgt John Scott was named by Sussex FA president Mr John Davey as the home side's player of the match.

The Army were without top-scorer Pte Lee Bradbury and Sgt Tony Wright, but welcomed back Scott, Collins and Pte John Wills.



2nd Lt Tom Middleton leads A/Cpl Christopher Rhodes and Pte David Canning in the juniors



LCpl Alan Shepherd (44) sets the pace for SSgt Ray Keeney, Cpl Colin Palmer, Cpl Paddy Cairns and the RAF's Cpl Paul Gardner



Referee Maj Peter Pittaway (centre), who was officiating in his last game before retiring, is flanked by team captains Sgt Donna McQue (Army UK) and Sig Pat McGrail (Army UKSC Germany) before their match at

the Military Stadium, Aldershot. The UK-based team won 2-0.

The women's "international" was Maj Pittaway's 33rd game in the Military Stadium and ended a career which started in 1963. He refereed all over the

world, was appointed a Football League linesman, held the fourth official slot at the 1983 Charity Shield game at Wembley and ran the line in the San Siro for an Inter Milan-SV Hamburg European Cup tie in 1984.

Picture: Mike Weston

## UK girls too good for UKSC Germany

ARMY football history was made in the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on February 23 when the first full representative women's match was played between the Army (UK) and the Army UKSC(G), writes **Derrick Bly**.

Two hundred spectators saw the UK open the scoring in the 16th minute when LCpl Supiot (121 Int Sect) created a chance which Cpl Bennett (243 Sig Sqn) fired home. Bennett was again on target in the 37th minute, controlling the ball neatly before giving LCpl Knight ((99 PC Sqn RLC) no chance in the Germany goal. The visi-

tors had more of the play in the second half but were denied by UK 'keeper Cpl Sutton (12 Arty Sp Sqn RLC).

Players and officials received medals to mark the occasion from Mr Rodney Aldridge of Mandrake Associates, sponsors of women's football.

● Duchess of Kent (A) beat NI Women's Services 2-0 in the Southern District (West) six-a-side football final at Warminster. Twenty-one teams entered, with Duchess of Kent beating PCD RLC 2-0 in one quarter-final and NI beating 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC 2-1 in the other.

# RUNNING PROUD

VICTORY by Scottish international Lt Cdr Chris Robison (Royal Navy) in the senior men's Inter-Services cross country at RAF Halton on February 17 failed to prevent the Army's first clean sweep in an event dominated by the Royal Air Force for the past 22 years, writes **Peter Marsh**.

Team spirit has never been higher. Training weekends and coaching seminars – assisted by international athletes John Mayock and Lisa York with the support of Asics (UK) Ltd, sponsors of Army athletics – and appearances by Army runners in prestige events such as Gateshead's Safeway International and the South of England Under 23 championships, ensured the teams arrived at Halton in peak form and brimming with confidence.

The Army won the senior

race by 24 points, with the nine-man team – including 1994 European indoor 3,000m bronze medal-winner Sgt Rod Finch – packing strongly to finish in the first 14 places.

This team, possibly the Army's finest for 30 years, has an ideal balance of experience and youth, and a blaze of red vests at the front of the field stamped their authority on the race from the gun.

SSgt Ray Keeney, a cross country specialist and one of the Army's top runners over the past 15 years, ran an inspired race to push international Cpl Mark Flint RAF all the way to the line and improve on his fourth position in the 1993 championships.

Behind their epic battle, history was in the making as Cpls Alan Shepherd (4th), Colin Palmer (5th) and Paddy

Cairns (6th) crossed the line in quick succession. With WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Wade (8th) competing in his 11th Inter-Services, and Rod Finch (10th) filling the next two scoring places, a calculator was not required to determine the overall result.

Such was the quality of the team's performance that the non-scorers, Sgt Peter Cawse (12th), Army champion Bdr Barry Stoddart (13th) and Cpl Craig McBurney (14th), who was earning his first vest, all finished ahead of the RAF's fifth and sixth scoring runners.

The women also won comfortably, even without injured European and Commonwealth star Sgt Kelly Holmes and Welsh junior international Mellisse Watson, undergoing basic training.

Cfn Nicky Hawkins, a new-

comer, took the silver medal after being in contention for most of the race. SSgt Mel Bradley (3rd), Sig Sharon Elder (4th) and SSgt Betty Gash (7th) filled the other scoring positions ahead of LCpl Sonja Hurst (8th), last year's Army triathlon champion, and Capt Fiona Gordon (11th).

The Army juniors filled the first six places in their race to win emphatically. Nineteen-year-old Pte Nigel Bamford, the only survivor from the 1994 team, celebrated his return from UN duty in Rwanda with a fine win ahead of Pte Noel Gambling, who was ninth in the 1993 National Boys' Clubs championships.

Pte David Canning just got the better of 2nd Lt Tom Middleton for third place, with Pte Chris Busby (5th) and App

Cpl Christopher Rhodes (6th) finishing the job two minutes clear of the next finisher.

Despite losing Northern Ireland international Capt Alex Rodgers with a torn muscle just after the start, the veterans also won, although Wg Cdr Keith Brackstone upset the form book by beating Sgt Bill Bailey, current British veterans 3,000m indoor champion.

WO2 Brian Johnson, who leaves the Army in July, distinguished himself by finishing ahead of Lt Col Glen Grant to take the bronze medal. LCpl Paddy Malone ensured team success by finishing ahead of the RAF's fourth-placed man.

New vest SSgt Jeff Baker ran into ninth place, justifying his selection following his fine performances in the 800m and 3,000m at the British veterans in Birmingham.

## Coldstream in control

OVERALL winners of the Infantry Alpine skiing championships at Tignes in France were the Coldstream Guards, with 1 Hldrs a close second and the Grenadier Guards in third place.

Individual champion was Cpl John McClelland (3 R Irish) with Maj Chris Süss-

Franken (1 QLR) the runner-up.

● As already reported, 1 Kings Own Border dominated the Infantry Nordic events at Nordseter in Norway. The superbly fit 2 PWRR team led the novice challenge, with 2 LI and 1 D and D contesting second and third places.

## Sapper sloop for charter

A CINDER 22 sloop owned by 71 Engineer Regiment (V) is available for private or adventure training charter. The four-berth *Sapper of Upnor* will be launched on April 2 and remain in the water until mid-October. She will be based in the Queen's Harbour, Gare-

loch. The regiment has a limited number of instructors available. Details are available from Maj P S Ashcroft RE, Training Major, 71 Engineer Regiment (V), Clyde Lines, 15 Dilwara Avenue, Glasgow G14 0QS (tel Glasgow Mil 5329 or civil 0141 224 5329).



Pte Colin Simmons of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, keeps watch from the safety of a Saxon at Bugojno, Bosnia. See story inside.

Picture: Terry Champion

# SOLDIER

